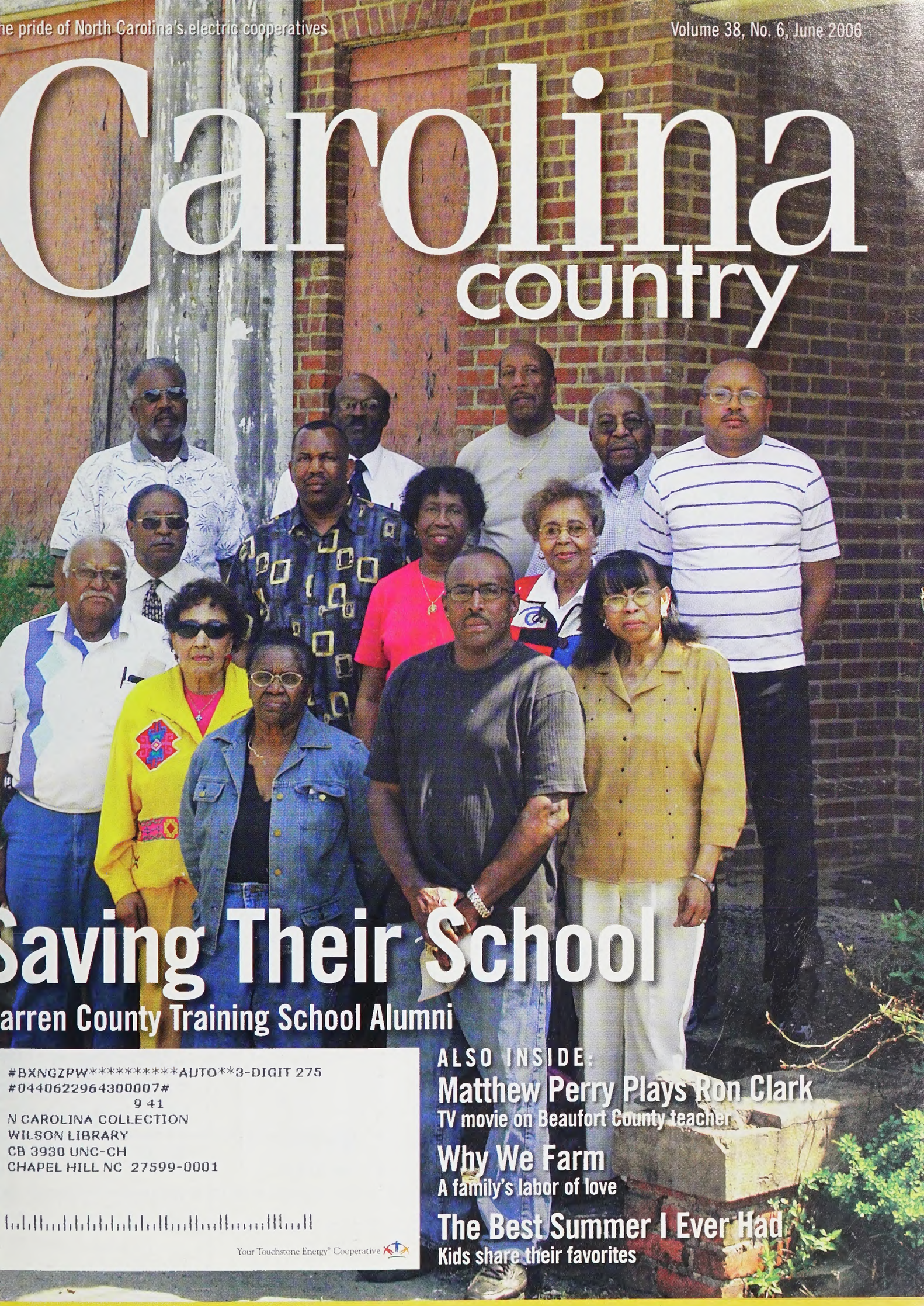
ne pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 38, No. 6, June 2006

Carolina country



Saving Their School

arren County Training School Alumni

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ALSO INSIDE:

Matthew Perry Plays Ron Clark
TV movie on Beaufort County teacher

Why We Farm
A family's labor of love

The Best Summer I Ever Had
Kids share their favorites

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An agenda for rural North Carolina—page 4

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North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

WHY WE FARM
Nell Perry Bovender describes her family's labor of love, including conservation efforts that earned them the 2006 "State Conservation Farm Family of the Year" award.

12 CUSTODIAN OF THE COOPERATIVE
Mike Finney's career in the electric utility business spanned 45 years. As a recent retiree from Halifax EMC, Finney reflects on his accomplishments and the cooperative way of doing business.

18 THE KINDNESS AND ATTENTION
A devoted alumni association hopes to raise $3 million to preserve and restore the buildings, spirit and legacy of their alma mater—Warren County Training School.

22 THE BEST SUMMER I EVER HAD
When kids shared stories of their most memorable summers, we expected Grandfather Mountain, Busch Gardens and Dollywood. A little less common were the ones involving an assisted living center, a lawn mower, and a boy from Belarus.

ON THE COVER
The Warren County Training School alumni are working to preserve the spirit and legacy of their school. See page 18. (Photography by Duane Salstrand)

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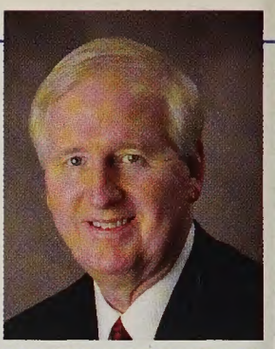
Rural North Carolina needs united interests to ensure our prosperity

Farm Bureau chief seeks support for guest workers, renewable energy and world trade



Larry Wooten has been president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Companies and affiliated corporations since 1999. He joined the Farm Bureau staff in 1994. He and his brother own a diversified tobacco and grain operation in Pender County.

The head of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation says that North Carolina's farmers and others involved in rural businesses, including electric cooperatives, must accept the state's changing nature and express a united voice in protecting rural communities and values.

"Our strength as a people lies in our diversity," said Farm Bureau president Larry Wooten. "The diversity of our geography from the mountains to the coast, the diversity in our demographics, our cultures, our agriculture, and especially the diversity of our ideas. But our hope for the future lies in our unity."

Mr. Wooten spoke this spring in Raleigh at the annual meeting of North Carolina's electric cooperatives' statewide organizations. Like Farm Bureau and its members, the statewide organizations perform services on behalf of their member cooperatives, including obtaining electric power and conducting government and community communications and training for co-op staff. Wooten pointed out that many of the issues facing the state's agriculture businesses are the same as those facing electric cooperatives and rural communities.

> "We need the immigrant work force...we need a good, sensible guest worker program."

Growing up in Pender County, Mr. Wooten knew the stories of farmers throughout the state meeting in the 1940s in local Farm Bureau offices to discuss extending electric power to farms and the countryside.

"Electric power changed the state of North Carolina," he said. "And today we are still a changing state." He cited some examples:

- North Carolina is the ninth-fastest growing state in the U.S. according to the 2004 U.S. Census; the state's population is projected to grow 52 percent in the next 30 years.
- 16 rural eastern North Carolina counties, however, lost population between 2000 and 2004.
- The eight most urban counties produced 40 percent of the vote in the 2004 general election, and their 27 neighboring counties accounted for another 35 percent of the vote. Likewise, 15 counties elected 50 percent of the state legislature.

"North Carolina is the third most agriculturally diverse state in the U.S. after California and Florida," Mr. Wooten said. He noted that the respected Farm Futures magazine conducted a survey recently that tagged North Carolina as the nation's No. 1 state for farming. The survey ranked Sampson County as the best farming place in the nation, followed by Duplin County as No. 2, Wayne as No. 5, Greene as No. 6, Bladen as No. 8 and Wilson as No. 9. Of the 100 best counties in the U.S. for farming, 21 are in North Carolina, according to Farm Futures.

Reconciling the differences between the state's urban growth and its agricultural prowess is "the great single challenge to further agriculture in North Carolina," he said. Asking the electric cooperative leaders for help, he added, "We cannot afford division in the ranks."

Outlining the major issues facing Farm Bureau and agriculture in North Carolina, Mr. Wooten singled out "immigration reform." He said it is a "volatile" issue that affects not only agriculture, but also national security, jobs and social programs.

Farm Bureau's position on immigration, he said, is to support "a good, sensible guest worker program."

Noting that while the U.S. economy is growing and the unemployment rate is low, the U.S. birth rate is flat. "We need the immigrant work force," he stressed.

As Congress prepares to consider a new Farm Bill—the first since 2002—the federal government in five years has gone from a budget surplus to a large budget deficit, Mr. Wooten observed. He projected that a focus on world markets will help U.S. agriculture's profitability. Bolstering his argument for world trade, he made the following points:

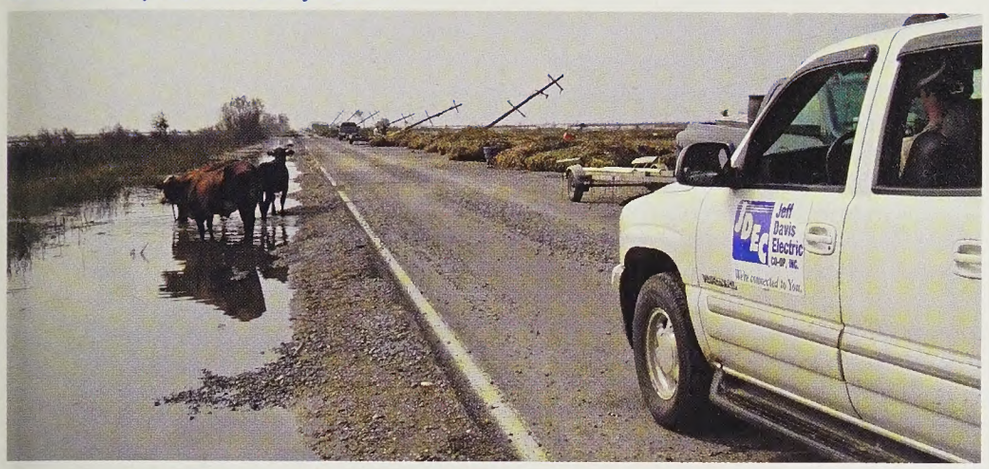
- 96 percent of the world's population lives outside the U.S.
- U.S. agricultural productivity is increasing four times faster than our population.
- Every $1 billion in farm exports creates 15,000 U.S. jobs.

Rising energy costs may have the deepest effect on farmers at present, Mr. Wooten said. He said Farm Bureau supports voluntary initiatives to develop renewable, domestic energy sources that can help replace reliance on foreign oil, and that the agriculture sector defers to the energy expertise of the utilities in planning to do so. "To avoid mandates," he said, "utilities must demonstrate a willingness to use those energy sources."

Addressing all these issues, he said, requires unity among the leaders who represent rural interests. "We must have an agenda that will ensure prosperity and enhance the future of those we represent."

—Michael E.C. Ger

Electric cooperative family values



Hurricane Rita damage on Hwy. 27 near Creole, La.

Last fall, a non-profit organization formed by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives coordinated a campaign of donations from electric cooperative employees intended to help the employees and families of co-ops in the Gulf states who were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The effort raised more than $80,000 from cooperatives in several states. NCAEC received the letter below from one of the affected co-ops.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Louisiana/Mississippi border in August 2005, Jeff Davis Electric joined cooperatives from across the country to help restore power to those fellow co-ops that found themselves in the path of that storm. Little did we know that just three weeks later one of the most intense hurricanes ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico would take ominous aim at Jeff Davis Electric's service territory on the opposite side of our state.

In southwest Louisiana, folks define history as pre-Audrey and post-Audrey, a mammoth storm that struck our coastline in 1957 which claimed hundreds of lives and literally altered our landscape. Today, our citizens are calling Hurricane Rita "Audrey in Technicolor." While we are indeed fortunate that very few lives were lost in the Louisiana/Texas border region thanks in large part to modern advance-warning technology, Hurricane Rita dealt a most severe blow to our property, our delicate ecosystem and our economy.

While we were able to restore power in the northern part of our system in due time with the able assistance of more than 1,500 men who answered our call for help, Cameron Parish, which lies hard against the Gulf and is home to more than 10,000 people, was left in ruins. Category 3 winds and a 20-foot storm surge left the southernmost sector of our service territory a muddy, brackish wasteland and eliminated roughly 40 percent of our service accounts for the foreseeable future.

Hurricane Rita reduced our Cameron Parish branch office to rubble. The local school auditorium where we held our annual meeting was left in shambles, along with just about every home and business in the parish. Among those whose personal property was completely destroyed were 13 Jeff Davis Electric employees and two board members. Thanks to your generous contributions, we have been able to provide financial assistance to these co-op folks whose lives were turned completely upside down and who at the end of many long, hard days of rebuilding power lines and poles had no home of their own to return to.

The positive impact that your monetary donations and your kindness have had on our people is simply impossible to describe. Hurricane Rita brought tremendous suffering to our men, women and children, but your magnanimity and prayerful support have given us hope and strengthened our faith as we work diligently to rebuild the land that our families have called home for many generations. Please accept our humble gratitude and be assured that your gesture will never be forgotten.

Mike Heinen, general manager
Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative
Jennings, La.

Stokes begat Forsyth

In the April 2006 issue of Carolina Country, Danbury was featured as one of the Carolina Country Adventures. The article states "They crowned Danbury the Stokes County seat when they split today's Stokes from Forsyth County in 1849."

Actually, it was Stokes that begat Forsyth. Stokes County was formed in 1789 from Surry County. In 1849, Forsyth was formed from the southern half of Stokes. Germanton, now mainly on the Stokes side of the border, was the county seat, so the two counties needed new county seats. In Stokes, the move to Danbury (very briefly named Crawford) was completed in 1851. Meanwhile in Forsyth, the Moravian leaders did not want a courthouse and attendant troubles to be in Salem, so they sold some land north of town to create Winston which became the county seat in 1851. In 1913 Winston and Salem merged to become Winston-Salem and in a sense the county seat found its way back to Salem anyhow.

Michael A. Kolb, Huntersville

Caleb and Black Baldie

Our son, Caleb, introduces himself to a one-day-old black baldie heifer calf. He enjoys helping to feed the calves, and he checks on them several times a day.

James and Tabatha Collins, Mt. Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC

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World's Most Valuable Timepiece Disappears

Back in 1933, the single most important watch ever built was engineered for a quiet millionaire collector named Henry Graves. It took over three years and the most advanced horological technique to create the multifunction masterpiece. This one-of-a-kind watch was to become the most coveted piece in the collection of the Museum of Time near Chicago. Recently this ultra-rare innovation was auctioned off for the record price of $11,030,000 by Sotheby's to a secretive anonymous collector. Now the watch is locked away in a private vault in an unknown location. We believe that a classic like this should be available to true watch afficionados, so Stauer replicated the exact Graves design in the limited edition Graves '33.

The antique enameled face and Bruguet hands are true to the original. But the real beauty of this watch is on the inside. We replicated an extremely complicated automatic movement with 27 jewels and seven hands. There are over 210 individual parts that are assembled entirely by hand and then tested for over 15 days on Swiss calibrators to ensure accuracy. The watches are then reinspected in the United States upon their arrival.

27 jewels and 210 hand-assembled parts drive this classic masterpiece.

What makes rare watches rare?

Business Week states it best…"It's the complications that can have the biggest impact on price." (*Business Week, July, 2003*). The four interior complications on our Graves™ watch display the month, day, date and the 24 hour clock graphically depicts the sun and the moon. The innovative engine for this timepiece is powered by the movement of the body as the automatic rotor winds the mainspring. It never needs batteries and never needs to be manually wound. The precision crafted gears are "lubricated" by 27 rubies that give the hands a smooth sweeping movement. And the watch is tough enough to stay water resistant to 5 atmospheres. The movement is covered by a 2-year warranty.

Not only have we emulated this stunning watch of the 1930s but just as surprising, we've been able to build this luxury timepiece for a spectacular price. Many fine 27-jewel automatics that are on the market today are usually priced well over $2,000 dollars, but you can enter the rarified world of fine watch collecting for under $100. You can now wear a millionaire's watch but still keep your millions in your vest pocket. Try the handsome Graves '33 timepiece risk free for 30 days. If you are not thrilled with the quality and rare design, please send it back for a full refund of the purchase price.

The face of the original 1930s Graves timepiece from the Museum of Time.

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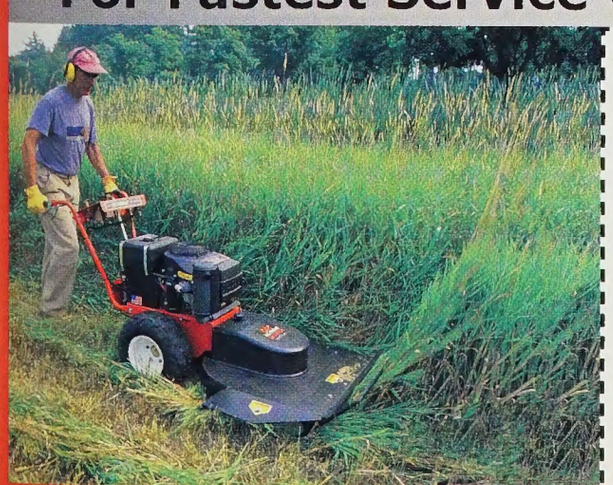

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Summer Safety Sense

Electrical hazards during the summer are often related to storms. Lightning strikes, power outages and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms are often the causes of death and injury during summer months. Touchstone Energy cooperatives and the Electrical Safety Foundation advise you to keep the following in mind:

- Take care when stepping into a flooded area, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potential lethal trap.
- Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard, or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.
- Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

The following tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

The "Ron Clark Story" airs in August

Matthew Perry, one of the stars of the "Friends" television show, has signed on to star in Turner Network Television's (TNT) original drama "The Ron Clark Story," about a schoolteacher from Beaufort County. The movie is set to air Aug. 13.

Ron Clark received two Bright Ideas grants from Tideland Electric for innovative classroom projects while teaching in Belhaven. He went on to earn the Disney Teacher of the Year award in 2000, wrote two successful books and is in demand nationally as a speaker.

The movie tells the story of Clark's setting out from Belhaven to teach in one of New York City's public schools, where he used his enthusiasm, creativity and passion to reach his toughest students. "The Ron Clark Story" is the true account of this innovative teacher who strives to tap into his students' potential, talents and abilities, gaining their respect and ultimately raising their test scores to the highest level in the school.

These days, Clark is working to open a school in Atlanta for underprivileged students. The Ron Clark Academy is expected to apply a curriculum that is based on travel around the world. Each year the students will journey on international adventures, and by the time they are in 8th grade each child will have visited every continent.

In addition to his many honors since earning his Touchstone Energy Bright Ideas grants, Clark was the guest of President and Mrs. Clinton in the White House (Tideland Electric funded the trip) and on the show hosted by Oprah Winfrey, who named him as her first "Phenomenal Man."

Donna Bise

Ron Clark at the 2003 Bright Ideas awards luncheon in Charlotte.

Save energy and tax dollars

The Alliance to Save Energy has compiled a comprehensive guide to the federal tax credits available to consumers and businesses who purchase hybrid-electric vehicles and who make certain energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes.

The guide can be seen and downloaded from the following Web site: www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654

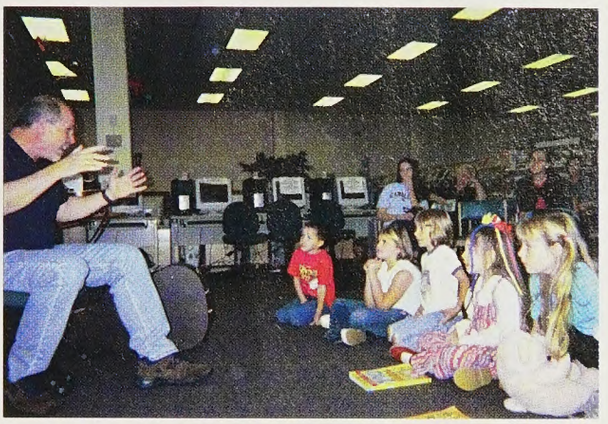
Touchstone Energy brings future PGA stars to eastern North Carolina

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will host the third annual Touchstone Energy Open, a tournament on the 23-stop circuit of the National Golf Association (NGA) Hooters Tour. The tournament will be held June 19–23 at Brook Valley Country Club in Greenville. More than 150 golfers will compete for a first-place purse of at least $25,000 at the 72-hole Touchstone Energy Open.

Last year, the golf event raised more than $26,000 for the Ronald McDonald House, which provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children treated at Children's Hospital in Greenville.

The NGA Hooters Golf Tour is a developmental tour for rising stars. David Toms, Jim Furyk, Tom Leyman, Chad Campbell and Ben Curtis are among today's PGA players who got their start on the NGA Hooters Tour.

Co-ops celebrate Dia de Los Ninos, Dia de Los Libros



Storytelling time during Dia de Los Ninos, Dia de Los Libros in the main library auditorium of Catawba County Library in Newton.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives helped bring the wonder of books (libros) and libraries to thousands of Hispanic children (ninos) by hosting Dia de Los Ninos/Dia de los Libros celebrations statewide April 24 through May 6.

Children's Day (Dia de los Ninos)/Book Day (Dia de los Libros) is a multicultural celebration of children and books. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and El Pueblo sponsored the event to help the state's Latino families discover libraries and other resources in their communities and start to bridge the language gap. At each celebration, children received free bilingual books and their parents received electric safety information provided in both English and Spanish.

Headquarters Library in Fayetteville was the first site of the event. Similar gatherings across the state were held in Newton, Siler City, Spring Lake, Hope Mills, Durham, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, Monroe, Raleigh, Fuquay-Varina, High Point, as well as additional Fayetteville locations.

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS?

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by June 8 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our July issue, will receive $25.

May Winner:

The scene in the May magazine shows a yard ornament on Capt. Chubby's lot at the corner of Sunset Strip and Bowen Rd. in Frisco on Hatteras Island. Diane Horan of Buxton says people give directions to that vicinity by saying, "Take a left at the toilet and a right at the shoe." Pauline Rollinson and Arthur Fulcher remember when the road was "lined with potties" placed there by Bert Basnight who lived nearby. Correct answers were numbered and the $25 winner chosen at random was John Bingley of Frisco, a member of Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative.

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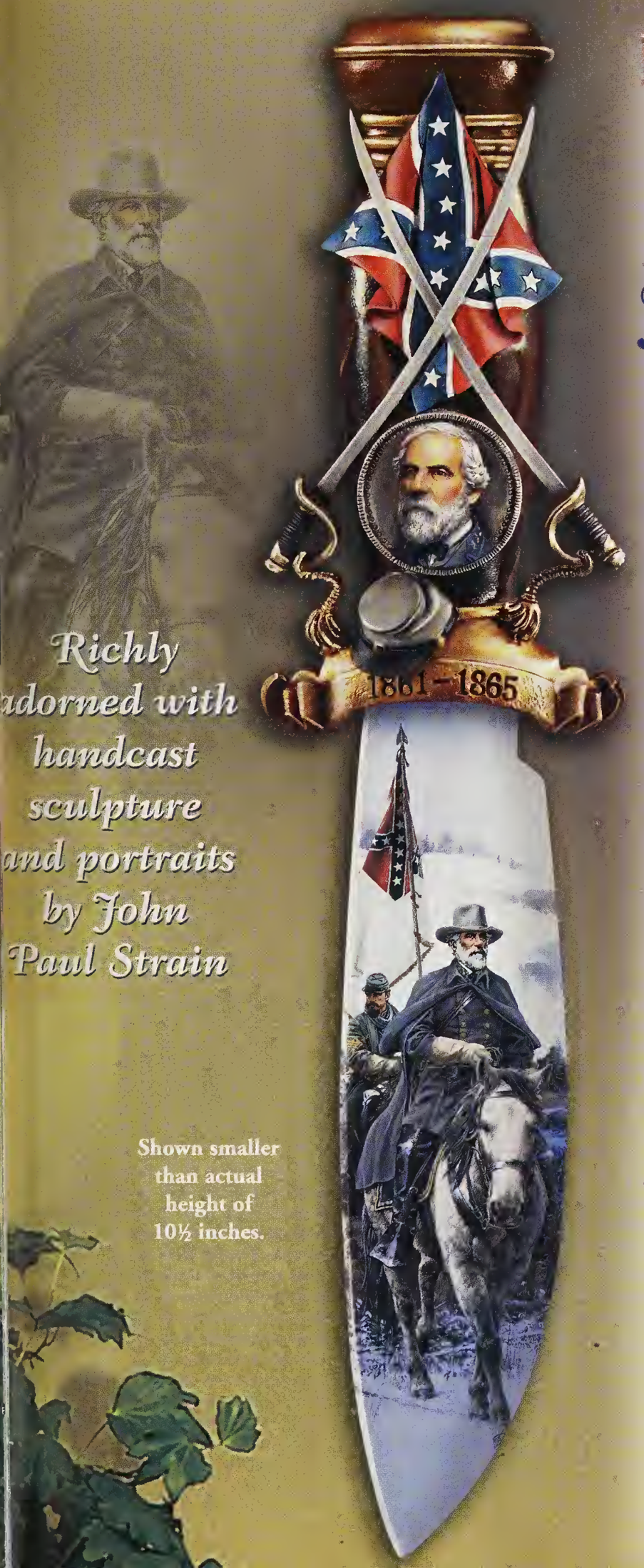

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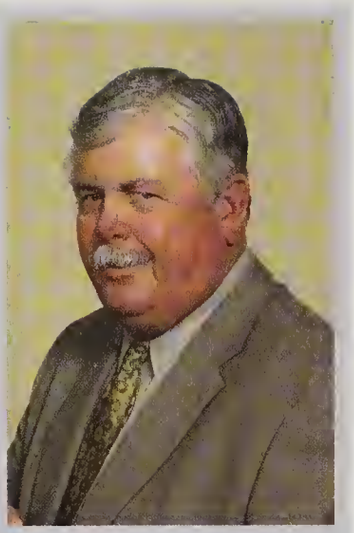

The cooperative model is the best way in this business."

Mike Finney

Custodian of the cooperative

Mike Finney retires after 45 years in the business

By Michael E.C. Gery

Mike Finney worked for three types of electric utilities during his 45-year career—an investor-owned, two owned by city governments, and one member-owned cooperative. He says they all provided great opportunities.

"The cooperative model is the best way in this business," he said this spring on the eve of his retirement from Halifax Electric Membership Corporation. "It requires the custodians of the business to be connected to the membership."

As general manager and executive vice president of Halifax EMC from the spring of 1984 to the spring of 2006, Mike Finney's priorities were to understand the co-op's members and employees, to maintain the best possible electric service, and to improve the quality of life of the members and their communities.

"You must always be willing and working to do more to improve the business and quality of life," he said.

Halifax EMC, the Touchstone Energy cooperative serving some 11,000 members in Warren, Halifax and parts of Martin and Nash counties, operates in what not long ago was considered a slow-growth, economically depressed region. Today, the area shines with promise. During Finney's tenure, the co-op contributed significantly to that progress. In addition to upgrading the distribution system and improving the reliability of electric service, Halifax EMC through its subsidiary offered satellite TV, electronic security, electrical contracting and high-speed Internet services that were not available locally. The cooperative became a prime mover in youth development through the area's 4-H program, now considered one of the best in the state. Finney himself crusaded to enlist business support of 4-H.

Mike Finney is the first to express respect for the Halifax EMC board of directors, some of whom were on the board when he was hired and remain there, including board president Morell Jones of Enfield and Marion Smith of Oak City. "The Halifax board has always been concerned that the system is well cared for," Finney said.

The Halifax EMC membership consistently reports high satisfaction levels, between the mid-80 and mid-90 percentiles in member surveys. "There's no other business that ever receives ratings like that from its customers," Finney said. He credits the Halifax employees with continually providing excellent service and paying attention to the members. "It's because you have the opportunity to stay connected with the members who own the business."

From Florida to Enfield

Michael E. Finney began work in the electric utility industry in 1961 while still in high school in Florida. He stayed 13 years with Florida Power & Light, learning the business when that utility was going through a growth phase. He left his native Florida in 1974 when a Florida co-worker with connections to the Greenville city utility system told him about a utilities director position opening for the Pitt County town of Ayden. Mike talked with the Ayden town manager, then was offered the job.

During eight years in Ayden he supervised upgrading the distribution system and equipment, and he negotiated a switch in the city's power supplier to Carolina Power & Light (now Progress Energy) from Greenville Utilities Commission. His work attracted attention in nearby Beaufort County, and in 1981 he was offered the director of utilities job for the city of Washington. Again he supervised upgrading the city's system and transferring its power supply contract. Then Mike began looking for new opportunities, and he heard about an opening at Halifax Electric where James T. Ellen had retired after 32 years with the cooperative.

Among his accomplishments during this time was his meeting and marrying Ginger Hodges. She was working for a Washington doctor at the time, and they married in 1980. In fact when asked about the accomplishment that makes him happiest, Finney said, "Marrying Ginger."

When they first moved to Enfield in 1984, Ginger worked with several local businesses, then immersed herself in the cooperative cause. She joined what was then called the Halifax EMC Women's Committee. When she was elected committee chair the committee gradually converted to an active force in community development. It became the Volunteers Committee, established scholarships for youth and adults, supported 4-H, made Christmas baskets for the less fortunate, visited nursing homes and supported the local shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Eventually she served on state and national electric cooperative boards and committees.

Mike Finney also put in time on state and national committees and boards. He represented cooperatives in 14 eastern states on the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative board. He served on the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives board and was president of NCEMC, the statewide power supply cooperative. When the North Carolina co-ops formed committees involving wholesale power and competition, Mike Finney was there from the start. He also was known as the man who always brought plenty of Aunt Ruby's Peanuts for everyone.

Looking forward, Finney sees a solid future for electric cooperatives "as long as they are willing to work hard, stay close to their members, and not be afraid to use ingenuity to enhance the business." Meanwhile, he'll be attending to Ginger's "honey-do" list and to the rigors of the golf courses around their home in Moore County's Seven Lakes.

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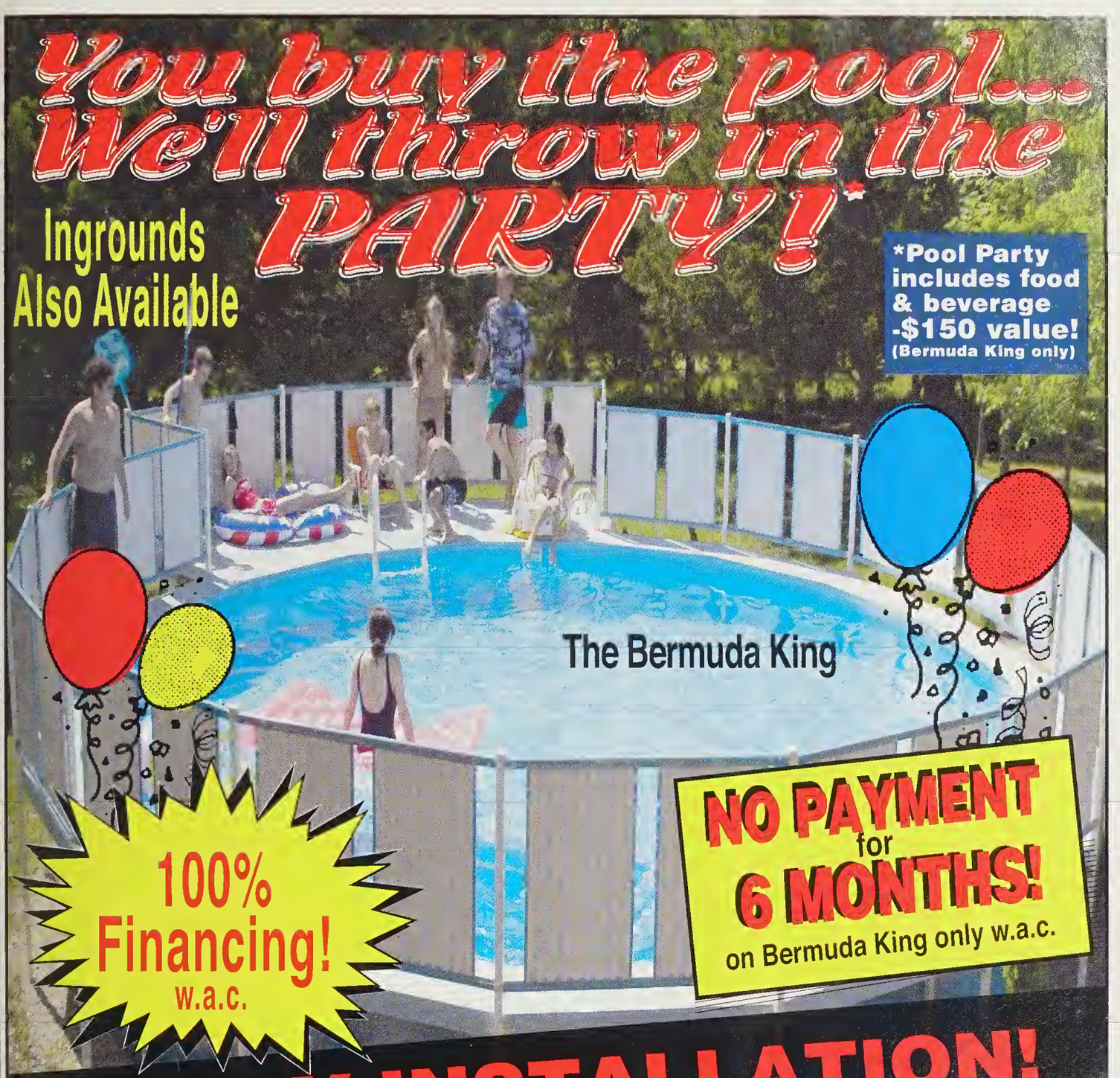

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WHY WE farm

By Nell Perry Bovender

"I'm taking care of what was given to me, and I want to pass it on in the best shape possible."

Tim Bovender

Fifteen years ago, I gave up city life to move to rural Rutherford County. The man I married had made the same decision 20 years earlier. We weren't simply looking for a slower pace and a sense of place, although those are huge benefits. We were choosing a life rarely chosen these days.

Tim is a farmer.

The rarity of his decision is reflected in the steady decline in the number of farms in North Carolina over the last 20 years—from 72,786 farms on 10.3 million acres in 1982 to 53,930 farms on 9.1 million acres in 2002. That's 26 percent fewer farms in just 20 years.

It's hard work, and it doesn't pay well. The price of a pound of meat on the hoof, to be honest, bears little resemblance to the sticker price at the grocery store. But farming is a labor of love.

For Tim's labor over these last 35 years, we were named "State Conservation Farm Family of the Year" for 2006 by the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The award title is an acknowledgement that farming is more than an occupation: It's a lifestyle affecting an entire family.

The award recognizes Tim's work to protect the water sources that run through this property. He installed 45,000 feet of fencing—more than eight miles—to keep our 100-plus beef cattle out of the streams. The streams serve as the headwaters of Cathey's Creek, part of the Second Broad River watershed. To provide water for the cows, he had two wells dug and installed 12 watering tanks and almost two miles of pipe. Government programs paid for enough of the effort to make it affordable.

He has also corrected damage done by farming practices generations ago. Water runoff from cotton fields had eroded a huge gully down the hill almost to one creek, and "high-grading" timber—the practice of cutting the best trees within a grove—had left forests of low-grade timber. Tim gradually filled the gully, which is now seeded back into permanent vegetation. And he follows a forestry plan that he and the U.S. Forest Service came up with to clear-cut and replant sections of timber in both pine and hardwood.

The award also recognizes our decision six years ago to place 300 acres under a conservation easement, which means that this acreage will remain

***Top Photo**: Tim's great-grandfather built our house in 1889. **Middle Photo**: To preserve pasture vegetation we rotate where the cattle graze. **Bottom Photo**: Tim installed more than 8 miles of fencing to keep cattle out of the streams. Photos by Nell Bovender*

open space for agricultural purposes forever. Foothills Land Conservancy holds the easement, pledging to monitor in perpetuity what goes on here. Contrary to what most people think about conservation easements, we still own the land and are free to sell it.

Development is encroaching on farmland all over this state; the loss of 1.2 million acres over the last 20 years shows that. Farmers are hard pressed to afford the increase in taxes and resist the pressure to sell. Our decision, we hope, will make it easier for our children to own this place.

The spirit of farming

The "why" of the award, however, is much easier to answer than the "why" we farm.

Simply put, it's what Tim always wanted to do. Granted, his parents encouraged college so that he could consider other professions, but upon graduation, Tim was ready to farm his mother's home place. He inherited more than the land to farm, however; he inherited the spirit of farming. There is a connection to the land that the farmers or descendants of farmers who read this essay will understand.

Land to those who care for it isn't an investment; it's a responsibility. Farmers don't own land; they care for land.

Tim called me once while we were dating to tell me he had been offered $1 million for this place. It would make a gorgeous golf course with homes dotting the hillsides. That may be when I knew how truly special he was. He had said no.

Land tells a story that too few people take the time to uncover these days. We are a mobile society, rarely living in the same place for very long. Housing developments sit where cotton or tobacco once grew, covering the sites of long-forgotten one-room schoolhouses, country stores and Native American hunting grounds.

Tim is the seventh generation to farm here, so we know the history. John and William Flack were among the Scotch-Irish settlers from Pennsylvania who accepted the Lords Proprietors' offer to settle what is now North Carolina. They received a land grant from King George III in 1769 for 200 acres on Cathey's Creek. John's great-grandson, Millard, Tim's great-grandfather, built our house in 1889. Our daughter,

This shows Tim and me with our children, Will, a senior at the University of South Carolina, and Ali, a 5th grader. Photo by Jake Garmon

Alice, is the fifth generation of Alice in this branch of the Flack family.

This corner of the world was once known as Cuba, a name given to the local post office that sat in W.W. Horn General Merchandise from 1850 to 1904 just a stone's throw, as they say, from our house. Horn also operated a mill across the road from the store. The only remnants of Horn's mill or the store are a few rocks and the name of the road our driveway turns off of—Horn Mill Road, two miles northwest of Gilkey in northwestern Rutherford County.

Our cow pasture in the corner of the driveway and Horn Mill Road was a militia muster back when settlers were called together to protect themselves. At the turn of the last century, it was the recreation center of Cuba—a baseball field that saw many a Saturday night game.

The best explanation we have uncovered for the name is that the country Cuba was the closest tropical paradise folks in the United States could visit—sort of like we visit the Bahamas. The name was an acknowledgement that this place was indeed paradise.

Farming is a rare career choice these days. One, land is too expensive to get into farming from scratch and, two, it doesn't pay well. Rare is the farmer who only works his land; most are dual-career farmers who hold down a day job with benefits or whose wives have jobs with benefits while they work part-time off the farm, full-time on.

Tim, for example, owns and operates a bulldozer, mows county dam sites, constructs barns and houses. I operate a local nonprofit providing urgently needed repairs to the homes of low-income homeowners.

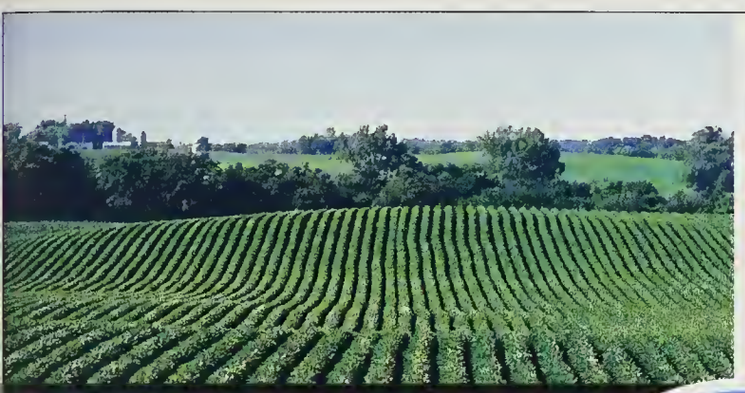
Large family farm tracts are rare. Farms break up as parents pass on portions to each child and each of those children passes on portions to their children and so on and so on. Tim's mother was an only child, and her mother and father had worked hard to buy back family parcels as they were sold, thus keeping the original family tract intact.

The list of drawbacks to farming is quite a bit longer than the list of advantages: lack of discretionary income, lack of health insurance, lack of stamina. But the main advantage is big enough to outweigh all the disadvantages: We have been blessed with a piece of paradise here on Earth, open space for which to care, and we take that responsibility seriously.

To sit on our front porch and admire the view alone is medicine to the stressed. Our heart rates slow down, we breathe deeply, we smile. Well, that's what folks who visit tell us. Taking time to sit on the front porch is a different issue.

Tim's response to the state conservation award is simple: "I'm doing what I'm supposed to do. I'm taking care of what was given to me, and I want to pass it on in the best shape possible." To us, the most important part of the award is the knowledge that North Carolina still values conservation enough to select a farm family to honor.

Nell Perry Bovender is a regular contributor to Carolina Country. The farm is served by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, a Touchstone Energy cooperative.



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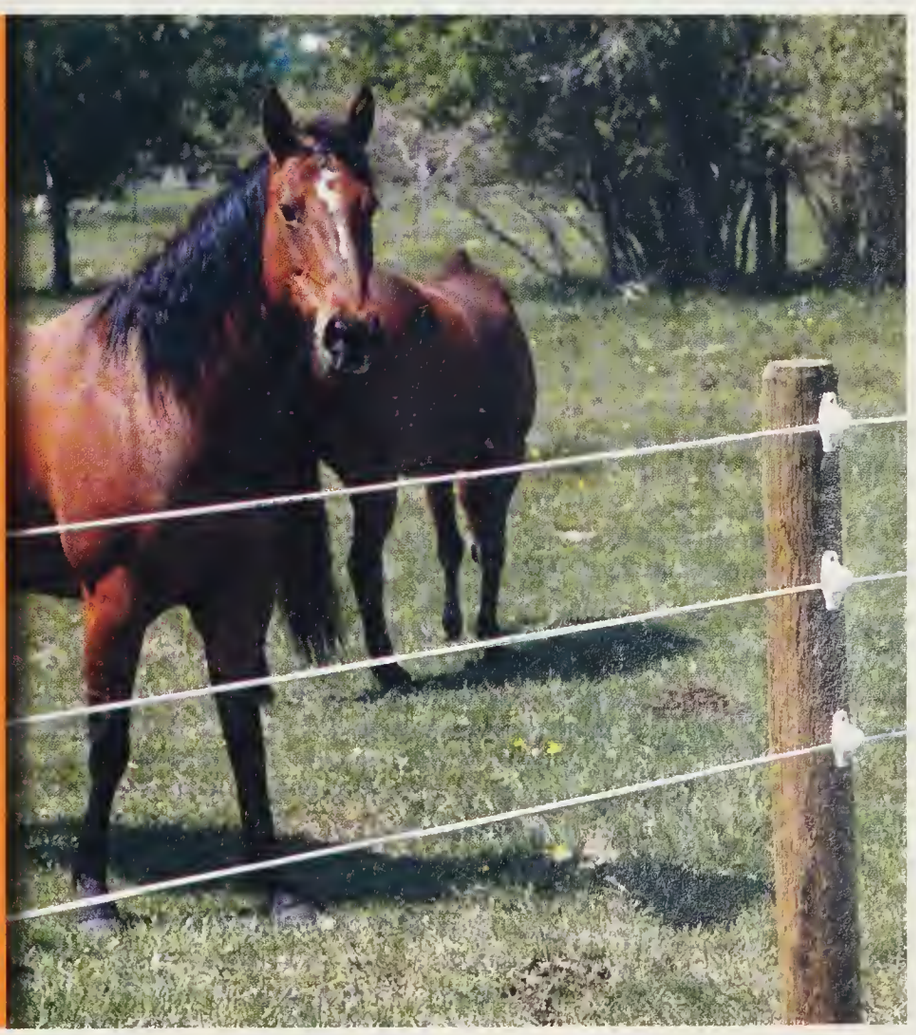

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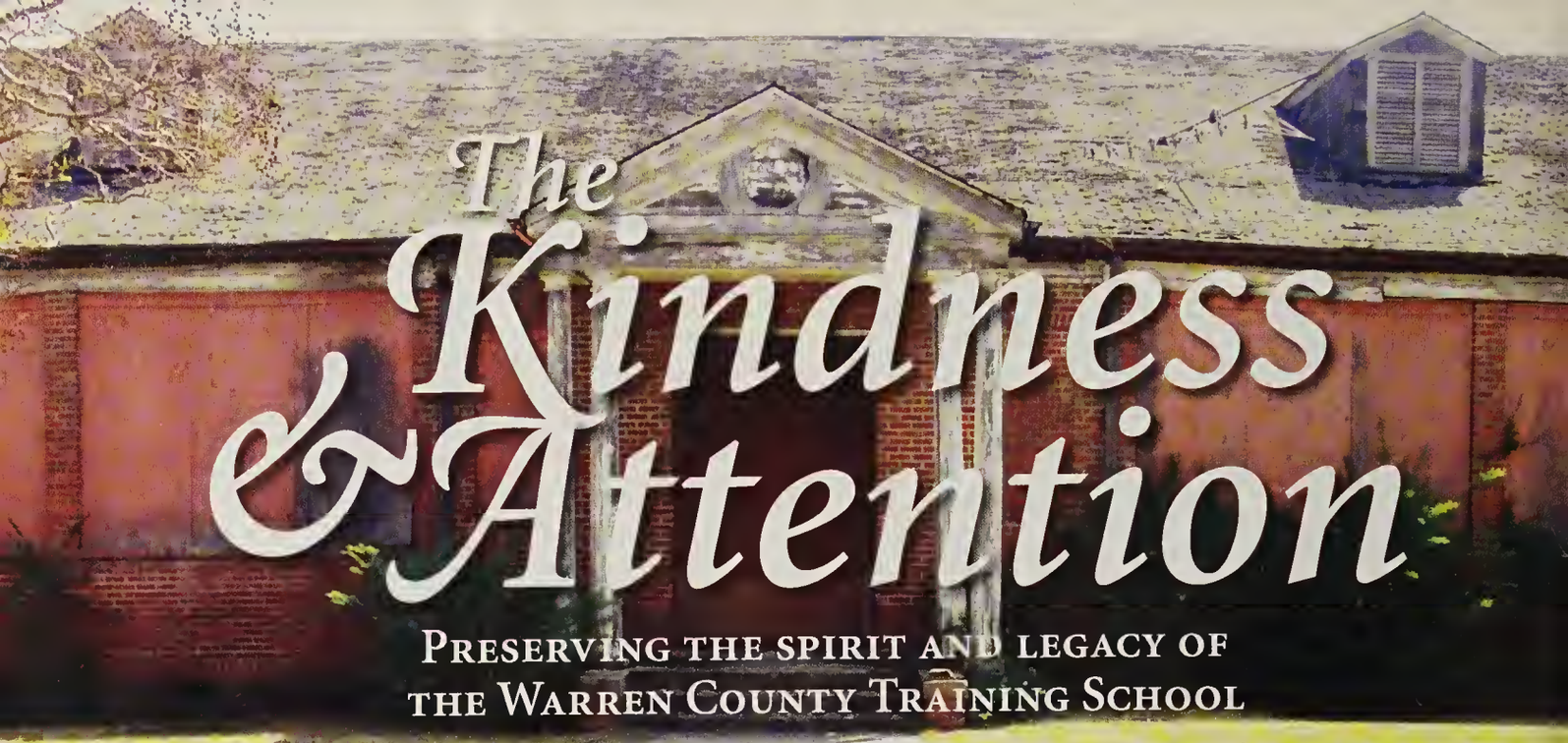

The Kindness & Attention

Preserving the spirit and legacy of the Warren County Training School

Text by Michael E.C. Gery / Photos by Duane Salstrand

In the early 1950s when Frank D. Hendrick was a student at Warren County Training School, his teachers encouraged him to continue his education past high school. "They said I should go on to med school," Mr. Hendrick said. "Well, I didn't even know what med school was!" He pursued his education anyway at Norfolk State and then Virginia State universities and a career in educational administration, teaching and government in Virginia. Today he is retired, and as president of the Warren County Training School/North Warren High School Alumni Association, he is bound and determined to give something back to the school and community that served him well.

"The key concept is to recognize the inspiration that we received here," Mr. Hendrick said recently at an alumni meeting inside the school's former cafeteria. "It's to recognize the heritage of this school, the culture that was established here for many years to benefit the black people of this area."

He's talking about a $3 million project that would preserve and restore the Warren County Training School buildings and grounds as a beacon for cultural enrichment in the communities that surround it.

Charles Jefferson, who graduated with Mr. Hendrick in 1955, had a similar experience. He attended elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse where Marie Hawkins Thomas taught all six grades. After high school, he went into the U.S. Air Force, "and I was proud and blessed to wear that uniform back here to Warren County Training School." After attending the Norfolk division of Virginia State College, he moved to New York and a career with New York state government. Now he's retired and returning his energy to the old school. He serves as the alumni association's caretaker.

Doris Terry Williams ('69) and Larry Sledge ('67) attended school here during the times just before public schools were racially integrated. Today they are grateful for the attention the black teachers paid to students like them. Ms. Williams, who works with the Rural School and Community Trust and whose mother graduated from WCTS in 1935, went on to earn advanced degrees at North Carolina Central and Duke universities. "Many parents of these students did not go to school," says Doris Williams. "But they knew that education was the *only* thing that would help their children. The teachers here knew that what you brought to the table was all you had, and they pushed you to do better no matter what your level was. That was the culture here. We hope to preserve that legacy and recapture those priorities."

"They taught boys to become young men," Larry Sledge said, "and girls to become young women. The communities and neighborhoods had a religious base, they looked after all the families, and the school was part of that culture. Your learning did not stop at the school. The touching of hearts, learning right from wrong, learning respect, it all made a significant difference in who we are today, to be a valuable asset to society. We are trying to bring back that spirit that somehow got lost."

The Legacy

Warren County Training School has its roots here in the countryside near the Virginia border. There was the Flat Rock elementary school of the early 1900s, then the Wise Colored School known as the Yellow School in the Wise community. After the Yellow School burned, the Julius Rosenwald Fund helped the community build what became Warren County Training School in 1921. Mr. Rosenwald was a Chicago philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. The Rosenwald Fund in that era supported hundreds of schools for black communities. The first Rosenwald school here was destroyed in a 1931 tornado. Later that year, the fund helped erect the brick building that remains today.

Gillis E. Cheek led the effort to build the school and was its principal. Known as 'Fesser Cheek, he was a Baptist minister and tireless advocate for civil rights. He reached out to families far and wide to bring children to remote north Warren County to be educated. Students lived with the Cheek family, with local families and in separate girls and

boys dormitories on the school's grounds. He supervised the school farm and canning operation that produced food for lunches and suppers. "He was strict, but the children loved him," said Elizabeth Baskerville ('36), who remembers him. He was known not to compromise when it came to granting blacks equal standing with their white neighbors. His work in promoting voting privileges caused him to lose his job at the school in 1941.

The Rev. George Haywood Washington succeeded 'Fesser Cheek and was responsible over the next 27 years for molding the character of countless men and women who would go on to become leaders and professionals throughout the nation and the world. "Pops" Washington was ever-present. You could not escape his watchful eye. You knew immediately not only when you stepped out of line but also why you did. And you learned right away that you'd not step out of line again. It was a time when black schools had to be self-sufficient, to supplement whatever support they received from the county system. They sold candy to raise money to hire a new teacher. They used donated vehicles, donated musical instruments, donated costumes for theater performances.

"Society and government set a separate cultural and educational agenda for these schools," says Larry Sledge. "The schools had to come up with their own resources. And they did."

They did because of devoted visionaries like G.H. Washington. At a time when the segregated black schools had no transportation and relied on used textbooks discarded by the white schools, Mr. Washington attracted devoted teachers and succeeded in constructing a new agriculture building, a cafeteria and a new elementary school with 17 teachers.

Like many school systems, Warren County's moved slowly to integrate the schools in the mid-1960s. After Doris Terry Williams' class graduated in 1969, the system closed what was by then called North Warren High School, and the students were assigned to what had been all-white schools.

Alma Mater

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For you we will stand,
When trials are at hand,
N.W.H.S., our beloved school.

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For you, abide for you,
We're always so happy with you,
To the blue and the gold,
So dear we'll be so true,
N.W.H.S., our beloved school.

"Then there were no black schools at all," Ms. Williams says. "Those schools had been the center of the community. Then all of a sudden the black communities lost them and their leaders as well. They didn't have their coaches. The principals became assistant principals in charge of discipline at what had had been the white schools." An atmosphere of fear had replaced one of encouragement, fellowship and inspiration.

The main aim of the Warren County Training School's alumni is to restore the level of encouragement, fellowship and inspiration that had been instilled in them as students. Restoring the building and grounds is a means of keeping them focused on the goal.

"There's Nothing I Can't Do"

Richard Henderson grew up on a farm in the 1940s, and his father insisted that he get an education, beginning at Piney Grove elementary. Clara Boyd was his age and grew up nearby the seventh of 12 children. She attended Burgess Chapel elementary, a two-room school where teachers held classes in different corners of the rooms. When Richard and Clara reached 7th grade they attended Warren County Training School. Recalling Clara then, Richard says, "Every time I had a class with her, she moved to another class. Usually the young ladies *wanted* to sit next to me!" In order to get her attention, Richard nominated Clara as Homecoming Queen, and she won. That may have had something to do with her willingness to marry him later.

Mr. Henderson went on to Hampton Institute then returned to his family farm. "My daddy told me to go back to school," he says. So he joined the U.S. Air Force and earned more college credits. Meanwhile, Clara Boyd had graduated from high school and North Carolina College (now N.C. Central University) in Durham. Professional opportunities for educated African Americans in North Carolina were slim in those days, so like many fellow WCTS graduates, both Richard and Clara tried their luck up

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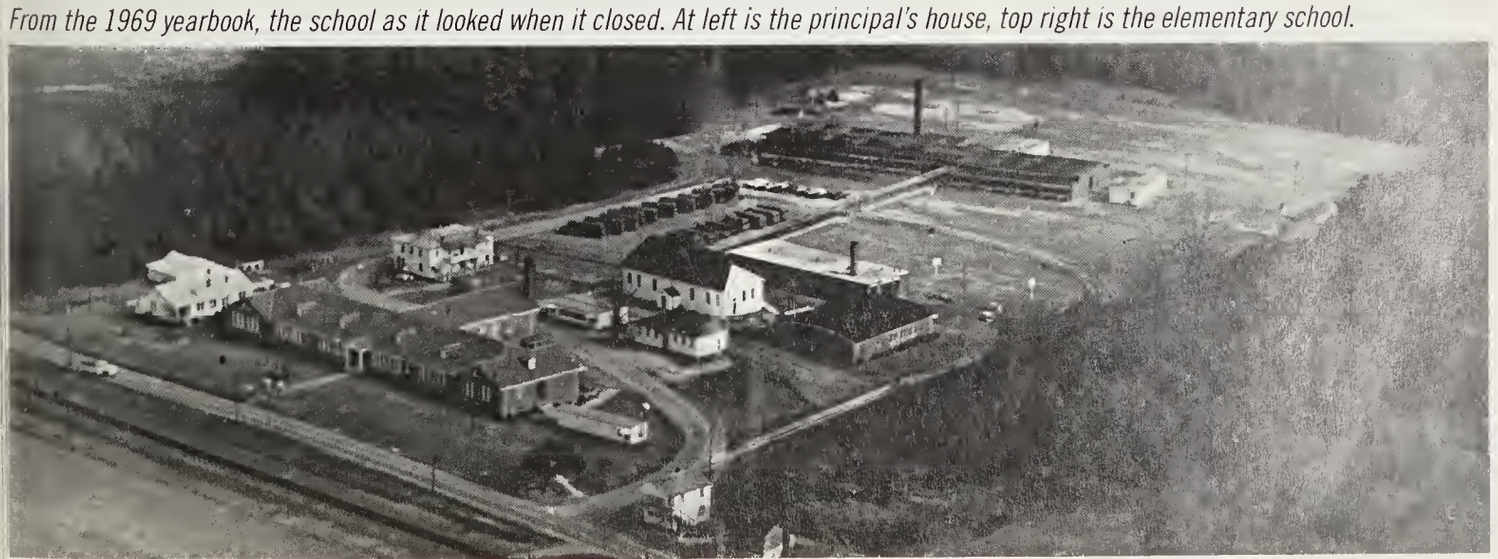
From the 1969 yearbook, the school as it looked when it closed. At left is the principal's house, top right is the elementary school.



North. Ms. Henderson worked as a nurse for 31 years while raising three sons. Mr. Henderson worked with the U.S. Postal Service, then for 21 years with the New York Police Department. Along the way, he received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and was called to the ministry. Today he is a pastor in Vance County and chaplain of the alumni association.

"Every time I made a step higher," says Richard Henderson, "my thoughts came back to Warren County Training School and Pops Washington and my teachers here. He brought some good people here to teach us, and they made many good people who went out into the world and accomplished something."

Clara Henderson recalls her high school teachers instilling in her the idea that "whatever we want in life, we have to work for it."

Maggie Dunston Kiah attended WCTS when Gillis Cheek ran it. "I liked school so much I cried when I couldn't go," she remembers. Cheek worked to get her a scholarship to North Carolina College for Negroes (N.C. Central) where she studied dietetics. She pursued her education at Howard University in Washington, D.C., then she, too, moved to New York City and became the city's chief dietician. She taught school for 16 years before retiring to Warren County, where she soon returned to work as the county's public health nutritionist. "I will never forget the kindness and attention I received at this school. This is where I got my start for three wonderful careers."

Stories like Maggie Kiah's and Clara Henderson's come from dozens of WCTS alumni. Ethelene Russell Hughey was raised by several family members, including aunts and uncles. "It does take a village to raise a child," she said. "What I learned from them and at this school is that there is nothing you can't do. Thanks to that I have accomplished everything I put my hand to." She remembered the generous spirit of her teacher Bertha Washington as well as the math and home room teacher Susie Love Knight. "I didn't like math at all," she recalled, "but she had a way that she *could* teach you math." Ms. Hughey graduated in 1961 and was hired by the U.S. Department of Education as a professional in 1965 when there were virtually no blacks in professional positions there. (Ms. Hughey, who was alumni association treasurer, passed away unexpectedly not long after she was interviewed for this story.)

Along with reading, writing and arithmetic, they remember learning how to behave. If they wronged someone, Mr. Washington taught them to recognize it and to apologize. When one boy yelled "Fire" during a movie, Mr. Washington singled him out and disciplined him. For the Sweethearts Ball, the Junior-Senior Prom, for plays and performances, students learned how to dress, escort a date, walk gracefully and usher guests. They learned how to manage a farm. They learned sportsmanship. They learned how to run a kitchen, set a table and eat properly.

"The touching of hearts, learning right from wrong, learning respect, it all made a significant difference in who we are today."
– Larry Sledge

Restoring the Core Values

The Warren County Training School alumni association was formed 24 years ago not only to keep alumni in touch with each another but also to revive the spirit of the school itself. The association has nearly 1,000 members and maintains active chapters in Philadelphia, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Washington, D.C. They purchased the school buildings and grounds. They began the $2.5 million campaign for restoring the main school building that recently was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. They set up a health and wellness program for the local community as well as senior citizens and veterans programs. They meet monthly in the cafeteria building that they themselves renovated not long ago. They conduct periodic fundraisers and workbees on the grounds. They established a scholarship fund which has awarded more than $45,000 to worthy graduates of today's Warren County High School.

Frank Hendrick, the association's president, speaks of his father and uncle who attended the school as boarders in its early years. His grandmother, who raised him, so revered the foundation of the school that she named Mr. Hendrick's father "Julius," probably to honor Julius Rosenwald.

"We remain under the watchful eye of this school," he says. "That's how strong it is. We feel a need to perpetuate the culture that developed here, the core values we learned here. We feel a need especially at this time to return those values to this community."

As if to demonstrate that such a drive can succeed, the son of Larry Sledge is a board member of the alumni association. Prince Sledge graduated from Warren County High School in 2002 and, as the first recipient of the Cheek-Washington Scholarship, he studies English at Elizabeth City State University. "My family, my teachers, these alumni," he said at an association meeting recently, "have inspired me all along to do my best, to go on to other accomplishments. I appreciate being a part of this family."

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& Alumni Association
P.O. Box 122
Wise, NC 27594

Frank Hendrick's phone:
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Charles Jefferson's phone:
(252) 456-4731

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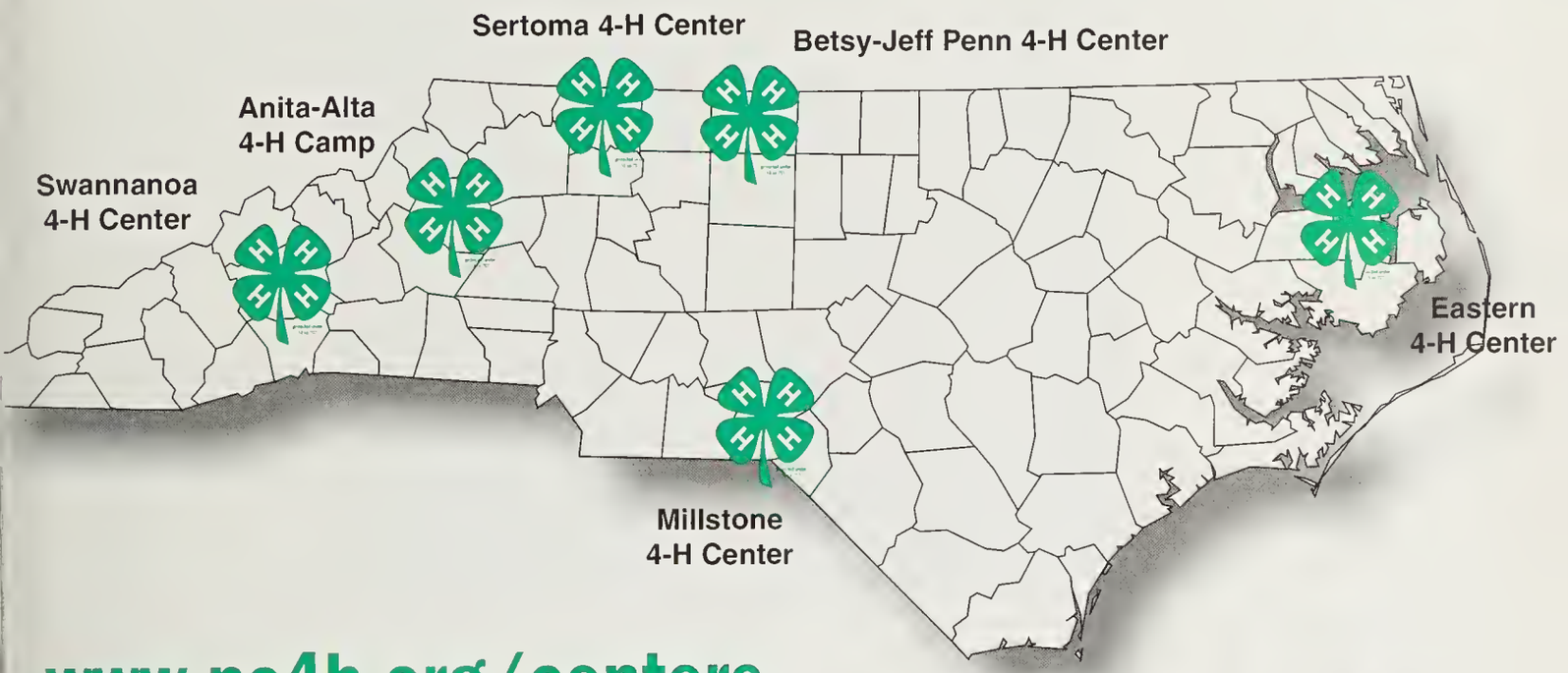

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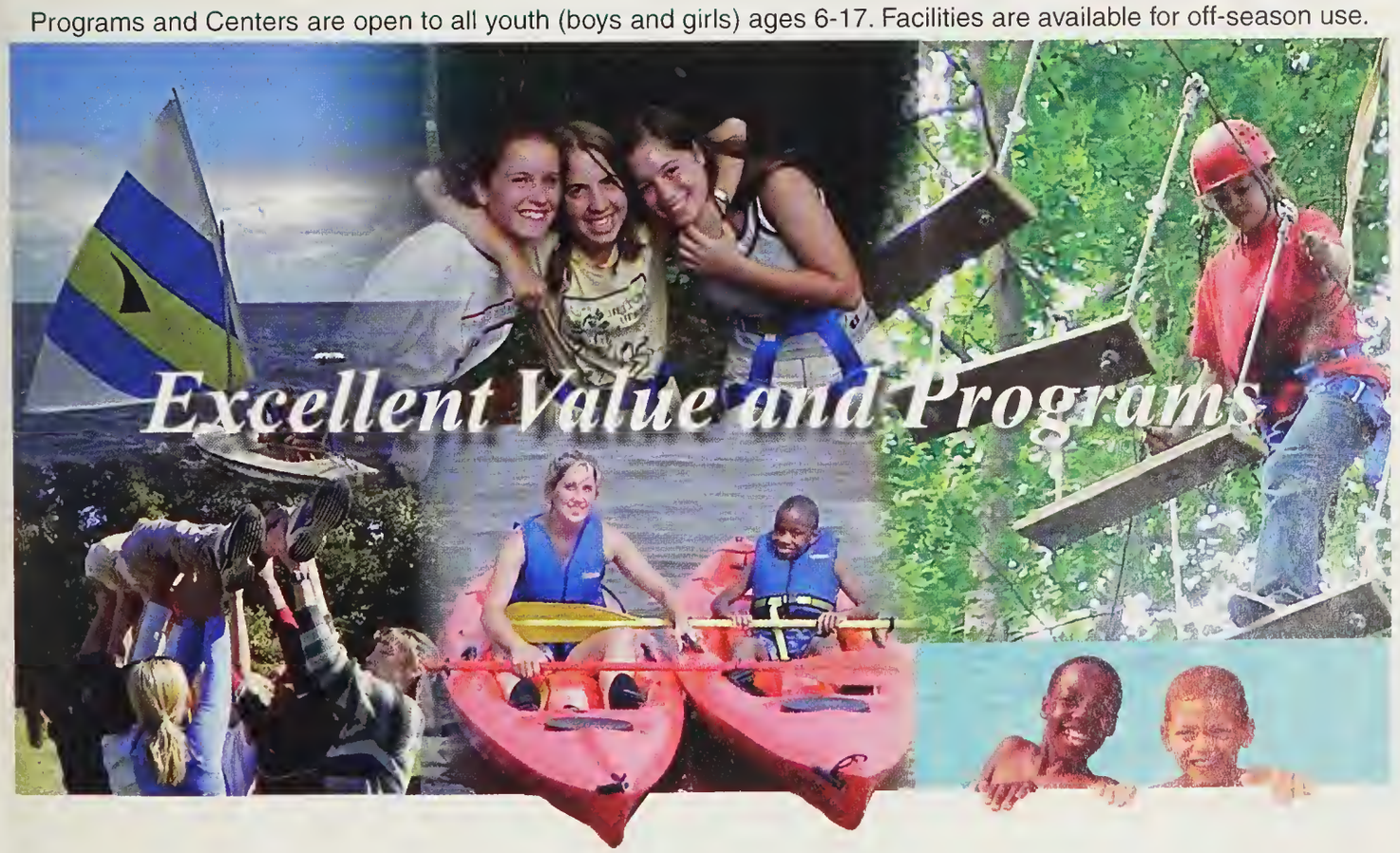

The Best Summer I Ever Had

Great memories from Carolina Country's younger set

With the boy from Belarus

Growing up in Carolina country I experienced some summers full of mischief, laughter and some downright good times. One summer I had the privilege to view that excitement of summertime through someone else's eyes. That summer my family had a 13-year-old boy from Belarus come and stay with us.

At Merrells Inlect, S.C., are Charlie Godfrey, Evgeni Staneslavorich (our friend from Belarus), Andrew Godfrey and Daniel Godfrey.

We learned to appreciate the little things, like fishing at Cane Creek Park and playing baseball in our front yard. We took him to the beach for the first time and introduced him to McDonald's "Happy Meals." He came to experience the culture, but we experienced more than he did. A 13-year-old boy from Belarus taught me more about where I lived than I could have ever taught him, and he made that summer the best ever!

Beth Godfrey, Monroe / Union Power Cooperative

With my hero

The best vacation I ever had was the summer of 2005 when my parents let me invite a friend to go on vacation with us. We spent a week in the mountains at a place called Banner Elk. That week we went to Tweetsie Railroad, Dollywood, Grandfather Mountain and the Linville Caverns. Sometimes we would stay at the condo and go fishing, boating, swimming or we'd play golf.

My favorite thing was when we drove to Tennessee and went to Dollywood, a great big amusement park. When we got there, we had to ride a train from our car to the front gate to get our tickets. We spent the whole day riding rides. We saw shows. We played in the water park and ate some really great food. We stayed there until it got dark and a bad storm came up. We stood in line in the rain waiting for the train to pick us up and take us back to our car.

When the train started moving, I dropped my bag with a t-shirt in it that I had bought. I started yelling for them to stop the train, but they didn't. My daddy asked me what was wrong and I told him I dropped that bag outside the train. He jumped out of the moving train and ran all the way back across the parking lot in the pouring rain, thunder and lightning to get my bag. My daddy ran as fast as he could to catch up with us. He finally reached us, and when the train stopped again to let some people off, he jumped on. Everyone started clapping for him, and I hugged him and told him he was my hero. We were all soaking wet when we got to the car, but we had a great day. It was the best day out of the entire vacation.

Kaitlyn Hodges, Grantsboro / Tideland EMC

With the all-star team

Have you ever seen two girls play baseball on an otherwise all-boys baseball team? Well, this was my best summer.

We all traveled over to the Down East area to play our game against the Smyrna team. We were the Pamlico Babe Ruth Baseball all-star team, and this year Pamlico had two girls representing them as part of the team.

The other girl, Kara, got to hit in the lineup before I did. We were all cheering and screaming, having the best time ever when she got a hit. During my second at bat, I swung the bat as hard as I could. The ball came off my bat and went speeding toward the second baseman. Pop! It hit him right in the shin, and he started crying. It was so much fun because Kara was yelling in the dugout that girls can play baseball just as well as boys can.

The whole all-star team had such a fun, enjoyable summer that I will never forget it.

Katie Lachman, Arapahoe / Tideland EMC

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Thanks to all the young people who sent in stories and pictures about the best summer you ever had. You can see more at our Web site. Next month we'll publish your reasons why "I'll never eat that again!" (Deadline was May 15.) For more themes and the rules of this series, see page 24.

The summer of 2005

The best summer I ever had was the summer of 2005. I went on a vacation, and it was so great. I went to Grandfather Mountain and Tweetsie Railroad. I got to hike on Grandfather Mountain and ride the train at Tweetsie Railroad. We stayed at a hotel that had a gigantic swimming pool. We went to a nature park and saw red wolves. Before we left on vacation we won a backyard barbecue party from a TV station. The TV people came to our house, and I was on TV. I also enjoyed jumping off our pier into the lake last summer.

Walker Winslow, Grifton / Pitt & Greene EMC

At the assisted living center

Most teens don't have to be pushed into their first jobs. All it takes is the call of money or a car to have us jumping out of the "birds' nest." I didn't need much persuading either. The best summer I've ever had was spent working my first job at an assisted living center. I know it doesn't sound like the ideal job for a teenager, but it was the most fun I've had "working" (if you can even call it that) in years. Every day was different; there was something new to learn, someone new to meet. The residents were so full of interesting stories and life. I befriended so many of the employees and residents, and I'm still in close contact with most of them. I can't wait to go back to work.

Chelsea Bailey, Charlotte / Butler High School

When Uncle J.R. died

My best and worst summer was when my uncle J.R. died.

I came home after school one day, and my mom and grandma were there waiting for me. They told me the news. At first I thought they were joking. So I asked if they were kidding, but they weren't. I was devastated. I cried for hours. But through the summer, I realized something. My Uncle J.R. wouldn't want me to be sad. And even though he died, my memories of him will last forever.

It was the worst summer I ever had because he died. But it was the best summer ever because in that year I changed in my heart and soul. Even three years later, he continues to live on in my heart and my memories. I just hope one day I can be like him.

Ashley Shaw, Grantsboro / Tideland EMC

In Little Rock with my father

The best summer I ever had was back in 1997 when the second grade was becoming a memory. I stayed with my father for the month of June. A family friend drove me halfway through Tennessee to a meeting place where my father would pick me up. I remember driving past rocky hills and boulders of various sizes and colors and waiting anxiously in the parking lot that was the meeting place. After about 30 minutes a silver minivan pulled into the lot and out stepped my father. It was extremely exciting to look up into his face and see an image of what I would become.

We drove to Little Rock, Ark., where he lived on an Air Force base with a wife, a teenage stepdaughter and a son about 3 years old. Most days we spent playing outside or at some neighbor friend's house. When it was too hot outside I would play video games or do some activity with Missy or Isaiah. When my stay in Little Rock ended, I was sad that I had to go home, but proud that for a few weeks I had been my father's son.

Courun Williams, Charlotte / Butler High School

On the riding mower

Last year was my best summer. Every year before this I had to use a push mower to mow our lawn. Then my Grandpa, who lives down the road, told me I could use his riding mower to mow our lawn. The only condition was I had to mow his lawn, too. I could enjoy this job every week. Now mowing is less than half the work and twice the fun.

Wendell Gascho, 11, Rutherfordton / Rutherford EMC

In Germany

My favorite summer is when my family and I went to Germany to see my grandparents. My Grandpa was over there because he is in the army. I liked it the most because of all the fun we had spending time with my grandparents. We went to all kinds of fun places like water parks, fishing and Volksmarches. My grandma took us to a water park. The fishing in the Black Forest was the best because of all the fish we caught that day. Volksmarches were very fun, too, because of the walking we did. (A Volksmarch is a community sponsored hike.) A lot of people in Germany do not drive cars or trucks. Some ride on the mass transit, and others ride on mopeds or bikes. We had a lot of fun with our grandparents going to see castles there. It was the best summer I have ever had in my entire life.

Ethan White, 11, Spring Lake / South River EMC

This is a picture of my grandpa, Dad, little brother and me, fishing in the Black Forest.

Sea World and Busch Gardens

My favorite summer was an exciting one. My mother, father and three brothers accompanied me on our vacation. We went to Sea World and Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens was great fun, and so was Sea World. Mom, Dad, Daniel and I went on our first water rollercoaster. In the beginning I was excited. By the end, I was shaking. Once we got off I liked it, though I was still shaking.

Dolphins, whales, sharks and stingrays are the things you find at Sea World. Busch Gardens is like a jungle in Africa. At Busch Gardens we met a bird that tried to say hello. The bird was yellow and blue.

Victoria Cook, 9, Spring Lake / South River EMC

On the road with dad

The best summer I ever had was last year's. While on summer break, I traveled the roads of the eastern United States with my dad. I had the opportunity to see many things North Carolina has to offer, like Black Mountain and Kings Mountain. I loved traveling on top of Black Mountain.

We were so high that we were in the clouds. My dad rolled down the window so that I could smell the mountain's air. It smelled like flowers. I really loved looking at the mountains right beside the road. I also saw Kings Mountain. Even though we did not travel on it, I still loved looking at it. I am looking forward to seeing it the next time I travel with my dad. Last summer I saw many mountains in other states, but the mountains in North Carolina were the prettiest.

I loved riding with my dad because it was a special time just between him and me. I cannot wait to go back on the road with my dad again this summer.

Kayla Hill, Goldsboro / Tri-County EMC

With Granddaddy

The best summer I ever had was when I was 12 years old. I was going to my first year of church camp with my youth group in Tocca Falls, Ga., where I gave my life to Jesus Christ. My birthday was coming up and I was soon to be a teenager.

On June 7 my birthday rolled around, and I had a bunch of my friends over. We camped out. My friends, family, and my Granddaddy, who I loved very much, attended that day. We shared many memories.

Later on in the month of June my Granddaddy became very sick. My birthday was the last time we ever got to really see Granddaddy act his ol' crazy self and hear him talking about things in the old days. He passed away on July 17, 2002. This was a very sad day, but we rejoiced also because he went to be with the Lord. This is not why it was my best summer ever, but because it was the last summer I would ever have with him. I dedicate this story to my grandmother because I know she misses him also.

Bobbie Martin, 16, Rockingham / Pee Dee EMC

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Here are the themes in our **"Nothing Could Be Finer"** series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you $50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

August 2006
How I Almost Flunked
What were you thinking.
Deadline: June 15

September 2006
My Finest Sports Moment
Send pictures, too.
Deadline: July 15

October 2006
My Favorite Halloween Costume
Send the story and photo.
Deadline: August 15

November 2006
My Favorite Photo
North Carolina people or places.
If they are digital: 300 dpi and actual printing size.
Deadline: September 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
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   Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

By Jennifer Taylor

Kinston

Heritage Place—Lenoir Community College

Queen Street (circa 1913)

Settled on the Neuse River in Lenoir County, Kinston was first named "Kingston" in honor of England's King George III. Kinston's heritage is rich with stories of war, waves of agricultural and economic development, and now, community preservation.

History and War

Before Kinston was home to early European settlers, native Indians roamed the land. The first of several battles in the region began when struggles surfaced between the first settlers and the Tuscarora Indians. The influx of settlers to the area spawned territory disputes with the natives which ultimately led to the Tuscarora War in 1714.

During the Revolutionary War, Kinston was home to the state's de facto capital. The governor was concerned about protecting the state's records from British troops and ordered that all documents be moved from New Bern to Kinston. The records were stored in what is now known as Harmony Hall, built in 1772 by Jesse and Elizabeth Cobb. The Cobb's home also served as the official government meeting place during the war. Harmony Hall is now the oldest 18th century residence still standing in Kinston.

In 1784, as the Revolutionary War came to an end, the General Assembly, along with the local community, agreed to remove the "g" in Kingston, as the King of England was no longer considered a friend. In 1826, the town was incorporated, but continued to endure struggles and war. Kinston survived Civil War battles, the challenging process of reconstruction, and numerous fires that destroyed many buildings and town records throughout the years. The devastating fire of 1895 burned a huge section of Queen Street, one of Kinston's main thoroughfares.

In March 1865, the CSS Neuse was destroyed just off the banks of the Neuse River during a battle between Union and Confederate forces. Remains of the ironclad ship were raised from the bottom of the riverbed in 1963. Visitors to Kinston can now discover naval history on a full-size replica of the vessel or see its remains at the CSS Neuse state historic site.

In an effort to preserve more of Kinston's history, a preservation group was organized in 2001 to save and restore two Civil War battlefields in Lenoir County: the 1862 Battle of Kinston and the 1865 Battle of Wyse Fork. The Historical Preservation Group has purchased land at both locations and is working to keep these sites protected and part of the state's Civil War Trails.

Agriculture and Economy

By the early 1900s, Kinston was home to warehouses, factories, gristmills, sawmills and became the "World's Foremost Tobacco Center" for its tobacco crops. As Kinston's economy continued to grow so did transportation and industry in Lenoir County. Due to increased demand, the area constructed one of the best road systems in North Carolina. Today, Kinston is the site of the world's first Global TransPark, a 15,000-acre industrial complex established to provide technologically-advanced systems to facilitate international industry and trade.

Kinston attractions also include the Neuseway Planetarium, the Kinston Indians baseball club, a drag racing strip, art galleries and museums, and golf courses. Plans for a Civil War museum are underway and will include a climate-controlled environment for the remains of the CSS Neuse.

As Kinston continues to thrive, it remains committed to preserving its heritage. Focused on economic development, historical preservation and community revitalization, Kinston has most recently been named a Preserve America community.

The Preserve America Program

Established in 2003 by the Bush Administration, Preserve America is a White House initiative that was created to promote and support community efforts that preserve our nation's heritage. The goals of the program encompass our country's legacy through the preservation of cultural and natural assets by local communities. Preserve America consists of a variety of components that include presenting Preserve America Presidential awards, identifying Preserve America communities, as well as establishing educational outreach programs and a matching grant program.

Since the implementation of the program, seven areas in North Carolina have been designated as Preserve America communities. Stretching from the western piedmont to the coast, they include Thomasville, Gaston County, Gastonia, Kinston, Edenton, Ocracoke and Hatteras Village. There are 295 designated communities in the nation. The distinction is based on the area's use of historical assets for economic development and community revitalization.

For more information on Preserve America and the Preserve America communities, visit www.preserveamerica.gov or call (202) 606-8503. The remaining communities recognized in North Carolina will be featured in upcoming months of the magazine.

Close Encounters of the WILD KIND

By Jim Mize

Call me quirky. Despite growing up in an area so rural we had to send people back to town as the first step in directions to anywhere, I have this principle I apply to wild creatures. Basically, they should stay in the wilds. Or put another way, when beady eyes show up in places that shouldn't have eyes, then I get wild.

My preference has always been against sharing domestic space with uninvited wildlife.

Dog food that wiggles

Let me give you a furry example. Over the years, I've owned a number of dogs, usually in two's. My last pair, a Brittany spaniel and a golden retriever, got anything they wanted to eat as long as it was dry dog food from a 50-pound bag. I know, I spoil them. One of my other beliefs is that dogs should be treated like dogs, and I have yet to hear one complain.

My 50-pound sack of food was stored in the basement to keep it dry and away from critters. Well, at least it was dry.

On this particular fall night, the chill air caused the leaves to crackle like I was walking on Christmas ornaments. Frost was forecast to greet the sunrise, and I guessed any animal with good sense would be holed up for the night. On that point, I was particularly correct.

I grabbed an empty coffee can, reached into the bag for a scoop, and just as it met the food some of it moved. Or appeared to.

Steeling my rusted courage, after my heart rate dropped to a safe level, I shined a light into the bag. Field mice wiggled like hairy marbles through the dog food. A quick calculation indicated that if I left them until they finished the food, they would weigh 14 pounds apiece. Having no interest in mice that large, I escorted them back into the field where their names suggested they belonged.

Though in every year after, the first frost brought their descendants back to my basement like ripe persimmons, I never got used to their surprising me. My preference has always been against sharing domestic space with uninvited wildlife.

More recently, I have extended this view to sidewalks.

Jell-O meets bare feet

My eyesight has begun to fade faster than my hair color, and I have come to realize that specks on the sidewalk are not always specks. On summer mornings, I tend to forego shoes to retrieve the newspaper, enjoying the flap of bare feet on cement. Flap and squish, however, are quite different noises. Flap is better.

When something like Jell-O meets my bare feet I tend to do my own version of the Riverdance. Neighbors may some day show up clapping and humming at my performance.

continued on pg. 27

This most recent squish underfoot happened to be a garden-variety slug. After stepping on only one, though a trophy by slug standards, I have since learned not only to distinguish them from stray chunks of mulch, but also to spot their slime trails on the concrete. I'd keep field mice in the dog food if I thought they would eat slugs.

Beady eyes where there should be none

Though motion in the dog food and slime afoot will get my attention, few things rejuvenate me like beady eyes where there should be none. The last time I witnessed such a pair, I was opening a garage door manually. I suspect a similar experience led some inventor to create the electronic garage-door opener.

But just as I was releasing my grip on the door, I glanced at the space above my hand and noticed two beady eyes. A forked tongue flicked at me, and as I passed it in my imitation of a gold-medal Olympic high jump, I recognized these eyes as belonging to a black snake commonly known as a racer.

Though this snake is known for its speed, I shamed it with mine.

This particular snake stretched out about 4 to 5 feet upon its exit, leaving most likely due to my excessive commotion scaring off any chance of it catching a field mouse in the dog food. It made a smooth getaway about the time I passed by on the way down.

Over the years, I've had possums in my dog pen, hawks buzzing my bird feeder, swifts in my chimney, and chipmunks in the crawlspace. Witnesses of my reactions to these critters might add bats in my belfry.

It's not that I'm scared of these critters or dislike wild animals. Far from it. I've just never gotten used to it when the dog food wiggles.

Jim Mize has collected the best of his outdoor humor in an award-winning book titled "The Winter of Our Discount Tent." Copies are available for $18.95 plus shipping and handling by calling (800) 768-2500.

Looking into windows

By Arnie Katz

Are you looking into windows? There's so much information—and misinformation—out there today that it's really hard to sort out the fact from the hype. To listen to some ads, you'd think that buying a particular brand of windows will save you enough to put the kids through college, buy a boat, take a vacation cruise to the Bahamas, and still have enough left over to treat your window salesman to a fabulous dinner at the Looking Glass Cafe.

Proper window selection is important, and recent developments in window technology really are improvements. In a typical house, about 20 percent of the heating and cooling costs are caused by heat gain or loss through the windows—that is, heat flow through the glass and frame materials. In addition, more heat is lost or gained by air leakage around the windows or through leaky window seals.

But before we talk about different types of windows, let's think about how windows fit into the design of your home. You can spend many thousands of dollars on high efficiency windows and wipe out any savings by how many windows you install, how big they are, and where you put them in the house.

Probably the most important thing you can do is minimize the amount of window area on the west and east sides of your house. These are the sides where the summer sun is coming in at a low angle and will hit the windows and heat up the house. Too many windows on the east and west sides will not only add dollars to your air conditioning bills, but it will also cause you to need a larger air conditioner and could easily cause comfort problems, particularly in rooms with lots of west-facing glass.

If you do want windows on the east or west sides, make them as small as possible to get the view, natural light, or cross-ventilation you want and then look at ways to shade them—with trees, awnings, trellises, outbuildings, etc.

Normally, we think of windows as energy losers. In fact, a study at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimates that 9 percent of all residential energy consumption is through the windows of our houses. In some cases, however, where windows are used for passive solar heating and/or natural lighting, they can actually reduce energy use in the building.

When looking at windows, there are five major types of heat flow to consider: heat conducted through the glass, heated radiated through the glass, heat conducted through the frame, air infiltration through the unit, and air infiltration around the unit. Air infiltration around the window depends on how well your builder installed the unit. Did he actually seal the gap between the window unit and the house framing with a closed cell foam or caulk? Or did he simply stuff fiberglass insulation in the gap, which will filter the air as it leaks through, but won't stop it?

Some window manufacturers test their windows according to national test procedures and have an "R-value" rating on the window. Read these carefully. What's important is the total window R-value, not just the R-value through the center of the glass. Good insulated glass in a poor frame is not a good value.

In North Carolina, you should always get at least double-paned windows with a "low-e" (low-emissivity) coating. The coating helps block heat radiation, effectively keeping heat out of the building in the summer and in the building in winter. The low-e coatings typically add less than 10 percent to the cost of the windows now and are well worth it. If you do have a large expanse of east- or west-facing glass, it may be worth it to get windows with a third layer of glazing or a double-paned unit that's filled with a gas which slows heat movement even more.

Other factors to look at include what kind of material the window frame is made of and what the spacers between the panes are made out of. Wood, plastic, or fiberglass frames conduct heat much more slowly than do metal. If you do consider metal frames, make sure to get the ones with a "thermal break" in the middle, generally a plastic strip that slows down the conduction of heat through the frame.

Finally, the style of window you select can have an impact on energy efficiency. Casement or awning windows with compression-type weather-stripping will tend to be tighter than double-hung and other "slider" type windows.

Once you compare the ratings and the materials, you'll be in a better position to judge where the best value is. A good way to get a handle on the potential savings is to ask your heating and air conditioning contractor to calculate the heating and cooling loads of the house with standard and high performance windows. Will this enable him to downsize the unit? If his response is a blank stare, you might want to consider another HVAC contractor. But that's another story.

For information on window ratings, visit the National Fenestration Rating Council Web site at www.nfrc.org.

Arnie Katz is director of affordable housing and senior building science consultant with Advanced Energy in Raleigh. Formed in 1980, Advanced Energy is a nonprofit corporation that focuses on industrial process technologies, motors and drives testing, and applied building science. Its mission is to create economic, environmental and societal benefits through innovative and market-based approaches to energy issues. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are one of Advanced Energy's sponsors. For more information, visit www.advancedenergy.org

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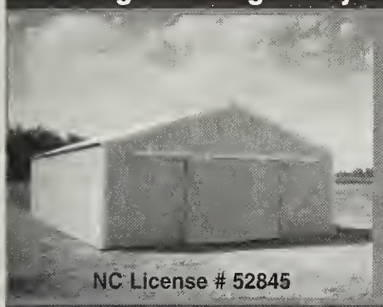

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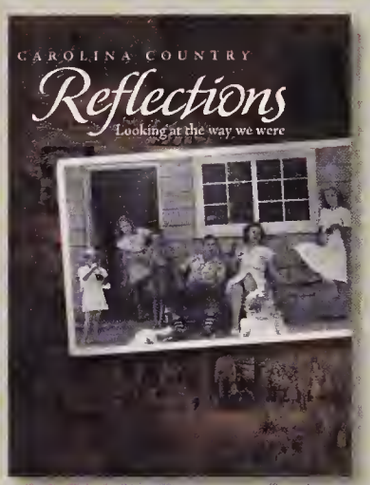

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Cruise Mayberry, Barney-style

Where else but in Andy Griffith's hometown of Mount Airy can a visitor hop into a 1962 Galaxie squad car and tour Mayberry? Mount Airy resident Mike Cockerham enjoys working on old cars and loves his hometown's unique history. He has combined those two interests into a business venture called Squad Car Tours.

Cockerham spent many hours fully restoring the touring car as well as updating it for comfortable cruising. Cockerham's partner is Mount Airy resident Jim Grimes. A former executive director of the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, Grimes will conduct the driving tours. Tour packages start at $20 for a 20-minute, narrated cruise of Mayberry. For a free visitor packet to Mount Airy, call (800) 948-0949 or visit www.VisitMayberry.com

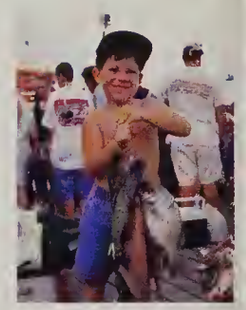
(336) 789-6743 (squad car tours)
www.TourMayberry.com

Pottery places

Traditions Pottery studio, located about three miles south of Blowing Rock, offers Mike and Janet Calhoun's pottery in traditional shapes such as jugs, Rebekah pitchers, and candlesticks, as well as mugs, bowls and teapots. Pots start at $6. Two kiln openings are hosted each year at the studio, with an upcoming one on June 24. The studio also hosts mountain music Sunday afternoons from July through September. The studio is open daily to the public.

(828) 295-5099 (studio)
www.traditionspottery.com

Carolina Beach fishing update



The convergence of the Cape Fear River, the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean provide great fishing conditions near Carolina Beach. A link on a Carolina Beach Web site provides up-to-date information on "what's running." Located on the left side of the Web site's home page, the fishing report button links visitors to "Hook, Line And Sinker," which reports on what fish are running at the time the visitor accesses the site. Carolina Beach is located 19 miles south of Wilmington, on the northern end of Pleasure Island.

(800) 351-5102
www.carolinabeachgetaway.com

Thinking inside the block

The makers of a masonry block called Omni Block claim that it can lower utility bills by at least 30 percent while increasing the structural integrity of a residential or commercial building.

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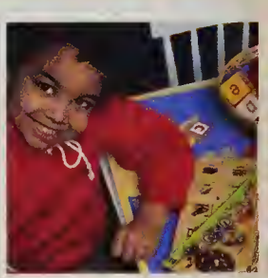
Wilmington Children's Museum



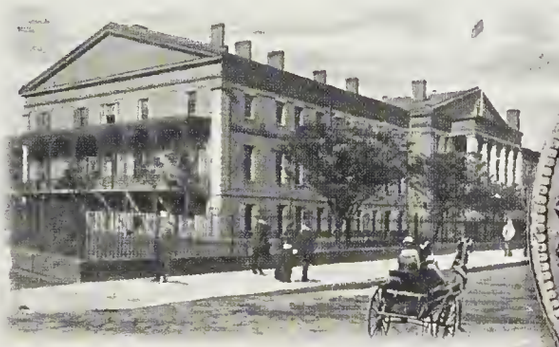
Where can kids board a pirate ship, perform in a circus, visit a grocery store, work in a diner, and learn about math, science, health and other cultures—all in a single morning or afternoon? Children up to age 11 can experience this and more at the newly renovated Children's Museum of Wilmington.

With 16,000 square feet, the new space is more than five times its former size. The interactive "hands-on" museum offers seven new exhibits, performing and visual arts spaces, a science lab, multi-purpose event space and two outdoor gardens especially designed for children, learning and creativity. New exhibits include GE's Imagination Hall's interactive circus, with performance ring, dress-up area, clown car, circus train and Travelers' Stories, where kids discover world cultures in a camp-like setting. The museum is located at Second and Orange Streets and is open Monday through Saturday.

(910) 254-3534
www.playwilmington.org

New Orleans Silver Dollars Saved From Destruction!

From 1879 to 1904, the United States Mint at New Orleans struck Morgan Silver Dollars, the most famous and collected American coin in the world. Today, "O" Mint Morgans are among the most sought-after in the entire series. Now, The First Federal Mint is releasing to the public authentic New Orleans silver dollars from the 1800s for only $39.95.



Shown larger than actual size of 38.1 mm

The New Orleans Mint "O" mintmark

Precious Silver Dollars Lost Forever

The Morgan Silver dollar was struck in a 26.7 grams of 90% pure American silver. Yet nearly half the entire mintage was melted in 1918 by the U.S. Government. Millions more fell victim to the melting pots over the years. The little that remains have mostly disappeared into private collections. Today, these big silver dollars from the historic New Orleans Mint are almost never seen by the public.

Now, The First Federal Mint is releasing a hoard of original New Orleans Mint Morgans dated from 1879 to 1899. While they last, you may acquire one for just $39.95, $145 for a five-coin collector roll, and $289 for a 10-coin Bankers roll (plus S&H).

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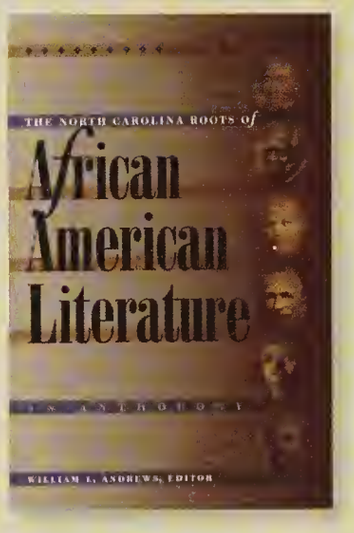
on the bookshelf

African American literature



This collection of poetry, fiction, autobiography and essays showcases some of the best work of eight influential African American writers from North Carolina during the 19th and early 20th centuries. In his introduction, author William L. Andrews explores the reasons why black North Carolinian writers made such a disproportionate contribution (in quantity and lasting quality) to African American literature as compared to that of other southern states with larger African American populations. "The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature: An Anthology" sheds light on many phases of life, from the slavery era to the turn of the century. Writers include Charles W. Chesnutt, Anna Julia Cooper, George Moses Horton and Lunsford Lane. The author is a professor of English at UNC-Chapel Hill and has either edited or written 40 books. Published by The University of North Carolina Press. Softcover, 314 pages, $19.95.

(800) 848-6224
www.uncpress.unc.edu

Heavenly cookbook

"Taste of Heaven," a wide-ranging collection of recipes from French Broad EMC's Relay for Life team, compiles old favorites with new surprises. Proceeds will be donated to cancer research programs. Chapters cover appetizers, beverages, soups, salads, vegetables, main dishes, bread & rolls, desserts, cookies and candy, as well as "this & that." Recipes include "Herm's Mexican Deviled Eggs," "Taco Pie," "Molasses Tossed Potatoes," "Squash Pickles," "Okra Puffs," "Corn Flake Pie Crust" and "Ooey Gooey Lemon Delights." Spiral-bound softcover, $20 includes shipping, 174 pages. You can make a check payable to American Cancer Society and send it to French Broad EMC, c/o Shannon Buckner, Relay Team Captain, P.O. Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

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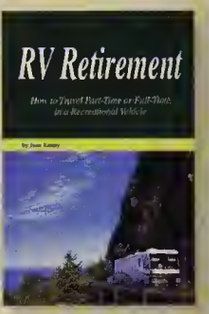
RV retirement



Author, retiree and full-time RVer Jane Kenny explores the advantages of traveling in a recreational vehicle in "RV Retirement: How To Travel Part-Time or Full-Time in a Recreational Vehicle." Broad subjects include budgeting and finances, how to plan and execute trips and different types of recreational vehicles available. Chapters specifically address a variety of issues such as getting mail, satellite TV and wireless data services, obtaining medical and prescription drugs, supplementing incomes on the road, and maintaining and understanding basic electricity and plumbing systems. The book also provides online resources for RV clubs, shows and parks. Published by Roundabout Publications in LaCygne, Kan. Softcover, 200 pages, $18.95.

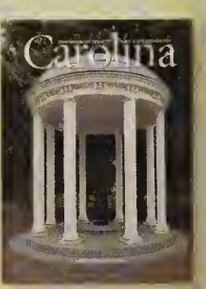
(800) 455-2207
www.TravelBooksUSA.com

Hardworking man's memoirs

"I Have Been Blessed: Hard Work and Happiness" is a home-spun autobiography about the challenges and joys of living in a large, rural family in the early 20th century. Author James Hill, who lives near Rutherfordton, was born in a log cabin in western North Carolina in 1913. Hill, 92, recalls his hardscrabble youth. By the time he was eight years old, he could do every kind of work needed to operate the farm. His story includes taking over the family farm at 14, marrying and raising a family, and coping with old age. In telling specifics, he draws universal lessons. His story reveals a sense of responsibility and optimism about life. Published by Aforesight Press in Deerfield, Fla. Softcover, $14.95, 320 pages.

order@ihavebeenblessed.com
www.ihavebeenblessed.com

UNC Chapel Hill photos



"Carolina: Photographs from the first state university" is a collection of color images that trace a year in the life of Carolina students, faculty and staff. With a foreword by professor and novelist Doris Betts, 200 photographs are accompanied by captions that reveal the history and lore of notable campus places, rituals and traditions of university life, and the wisdom of those who passed through. Published by The University of North Carolina Press. Hardcover, $35, 196 pages.

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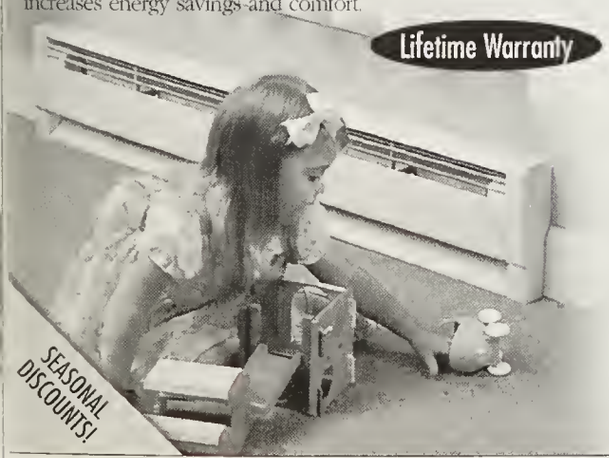

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YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

Carolina country if...

...your garbage disposal was a 5-gallon bucket you used to feed the hogs.

From Margaret Campbell, Pilot Mountain

From Margaret Campbell, Pilot Mountain

... You made mud cakes in lids of zinc cans, let them dry, took them out and iced them with pokeberry juice mixed with flour.

... Your garbage disposal was a 5-gallon bucket you used to feed the hogs.

... At hog-killing time you and your cousins took the hog bladder and blew it up for a football.

... You saved tobacco string, wound it up for a ball, and used a small board for a bat.

... In springtime you made a broom from twigs and swept your yard.

From Thayer Jordan

... You get snitches in your britches.

... Your wife's new saying is, "God bless a monkey's tail!"

From Janice Oxendine and C.J. Jones, Maxton

... A dog chews on grass then you know it will rain that day.

... You eat collards with your fingers along with cornbread, fatback, vinegar, and hot peppers or chow chow.

... Springtime meant spring revival, planting gardens and setting out 'bacca.

... Fall meant fall revival, planting the fall garden and taking off the last of the 'bacca.

From Kathryn Hardison

... Your grandma's kitchen may have looked old-fashioned but it always smelled like fresh baked bread and lemons.

... Your grandma always had iced tea with fresh lemons waiting for you in the refrigerator and fresh baked sweet potato or lemon meringue pies cooling on the back porch.

... Summers smell of fresh-cut grass and charcoal grills with hamburgers cooking.

... You get almost all your supplies from the local country store up the road.

From Jerry Chavis, Red Springs

... You look through the cracks in the floor and see chickens under the house.

... In a restaurant they bring you Kool-Aid in a mason jar.

... When putting in tobacco you opened that lightbread bag at lunchtime and pulled out two tomato sandwiches made with biscuits and ate them while washing them down with cold water you brought in your Duke mayonnaise jar.

From Connie L. Lowry, Siler City

... To turn up the volume on the TV you "cut it up."

... You have chicken and paster for Sunday lunch.

... You fry an egg in a spider (fry pan).

... You wash and roll your hair on Saturday night.

From Renee Whitworth, Lincolnton

... Your husband compliments your cooking by saying, "This will make you fight your grandma."

... During Activity Week at the high school, students may drive tractors to school, and there are as many girls who drive them in as boys.

... People know what you mean when you say, "I ruint the d@*# thing."

... Your partner says, "I'm wit ya, I ain't again ya."

From Jo Ann and Dalton Brown, Troutman

... You got dressed up and your daddy told you, "If you will act as well as you look you will be fine."

... Every year your mom would crochet another ruffle at the bottom of your crochet dress.

... People use the word sort, as in, "What sort of dog is that?"

From Steven Preddy, Franklinton

... It doesn't matter what you drive as long as it is 4-wheel drive and American-made with a V-8 under the hood.

... The rims on your friend's truck are worth more than your truck.

... Your mom went through more vehicles than your dad did.

... Tow hooks are mounted on the front of your Ford Superduty.

... Your dad has more tractors that don't run than do run.

... Your lawn ornament is an Allis-Chalmers combine.

From Jesse English, Churchland,

... Your favorite swing was a Muscadine vine.

... You got clobbered in a dirt clod fight.

... You used a broom sage and notebook paper to make a kite.

... You watched the "Little Rascals" on TV with your pet goat.

From Marie Mozingo

... You shot marbles under the house on a rainy day.

... You made sure you had your clod knockers and steelies.

... You told your grandpa you didn't shoot the pigeon with your sling shot.

... You worked 60 hours a week and got $21.

... Your mule pulled bed springs to smooth the land.

... You made sure that the sweet taters and Arsh taters had enough pine straw in the winter time.

... While everybody was sitting on the front porch in warm weather chawing tobackey and dipping their snuff, someone thumped out a cigarette and you hoped it didn't go out before you could grab it and head to the outhouse and get a couple of drags off of it.

From Erin Butler, Morganton

... You're in the local convenience store and see your cousin's picture on the wall with a deer he killed.

... Your favorite thing to do is go four-wheeling with your cousins.

... Your cousins call you Daisy, and you call them Bo and Luke.

... Your great-grandma still does not have an air conditioner, so in the summertime you sit outside on her porch and watch the cars go by.

... Summertime means eating your uncle's homemade peach ice cream and homegrown watermelons, and wearing cut-off shorts to the South Mountain State Park.

... You know all 32 of your cousins.

... You believe dirt track racing is the best sport in the world.

... At the gas station you ask the person at the next pump, "How's your mama?"

... All your nearby neighbors are in your family.

... The song "Boondocks," by Little Big Town, is your life's story.

From Denise Stephenson, formerly of Haywood County

... Your babysitter was a kindly older mountain woman who "kept" one of her own grandchildren along with you and your sister, and you called her Granny Roxie. When you moved to another school, you lost touch with her. And now, when you visit friends and family you sometimes pass that little white house with the uneven floors and you remember special times with her.

... She would say, "Do I need to get my hickory?"

... She baked cornbread cake in a small cast iron skillet every day, and sometimes she ate it with pinto beans and onions, other times with a tall glass of milk.

... You sat with her on the front porch while she broke beans in her apron.

... She made your sandwich any way you liked it—nanner sandwiches with mayonnaise, bologna sandwiches with mayonnaise—and they tasted better at her house than anywhere else.

... She peeled your apple so the skin came off in one long spiral.

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Getting To Know...

Dolley Madison

Born: Dolley Payne to Quaker parents in 1768 in New Garden ettlement (now Guilford College), N.C.

Known for: With her lively social graces, political savvy and courage nder pressure, Dolley is considered one of the most influential and eloved first ladies in history.

Accomplishments: As the wife of former U.S. President James Madison, Dolley created the role of First Lady as social hostess and trend-setter, urnishing the president's quarters for the first time and hosting veekly parties of politicians and citizens. In 1814 British soldiers nvaded Washington, D.C., and overran the capital while President Madison was out of town. Before the soldiers burned the president's ouse, Dolley salvaged wagonloads of valuables, including Gilbert tuart's now-famous portrait of George Washington. Her bravery nder fire made her a national hero.

From *Soda Bottle* to *Terrarium*

here are many ways to recycle plastic 2-liter soda bottles. One fun roject is to make terrariums or planters out of 'em!

Materials you need

- Old 2-liter soda bottles (clear), washed and label free
- Sharp scissors (adult supervision necessary for kids)
- Slightly damp potting soil
- Small pebbles or gravel
- Cuttings from houseplants (such as spider plants or wandering jew)
- Rooting hormone (optional, available at nurseries)
- Permanent markers

low to make it

Using scissors, cut the top off the soda bottle at the point where the top tops curving and becomes straight (about 3–4 inches from the top). eave about 1 inch uncut, so the top of the bottle becomes a "flip top." lace a handful (about 1 inch) of gravel or pebbles at the bottom, then ll with 6 inches of soil. Use scissors to make a cutting off of a house-lant. If desired, dip the end of the cut stem into rooting hormone owder. Stick the stem into the soil, about ½ to 1 inch deep. Place the ip top over the bottom section.

Use a permanent marker to write your name on the bottom of the rrarium. Place the terrarium near a sunny window, but not in direct sunlight. If condensation (water) appears on the sides after watering, remove the top for a few hours to allow the soil to dry slightly.

Discussion

What other uses for plastic soda bottles can you think of? What other containers could you use as a terrarium?

Do You Know...

bluegrass music is a mix of old-time music, blues, ragtime and jazz?

Its origins lie in English, Irish and Scottish traditional music of immigrants, along with rural African-American tunes. Like jazz, bluegrass is played with each melody instrument playing the melody in turn while the others revert to backing. The bluegrass form developed during the mid-1940s. No one person can claim to have invented it, but Bill Monroe is referred to as the "founding father" of bluegrass music. The bluegrass style was named for his band, the Blue Grass Boys, formed in 1939. Famous banjo player and North Carolina native Earl Scruggs joined their band in 1945.

Field Trip Fun

EXOTIC FISH EXHIBIT

N.C. Aquarium

A recently opened gallery of exhibits at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher displays cool, exotic species not normally found in the state's waters. Visitors can discover sea snakes from the tropical Pacific, fluorescent cuttlefish from the Red Sea, Indo-Pacific lionfish and colorful reef fish such as the fire dartfish and percula clown. Displays at each exhibit provide facts and photo IDs to illuminate the featured animals.

The aquarium is located just south of Kure Beach. Call (866) 301-3476 or visit the Web site www.ncaquariums.com/newsite/ff/ffindex.htm

SURF IT!

To learn more about N.C. aquariums visit www.ncaquariums.com

For Dolley Madison and other First Ladies, www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies

For making terrariums, www.astc.org/exhibitions/rotten/terrar.htm

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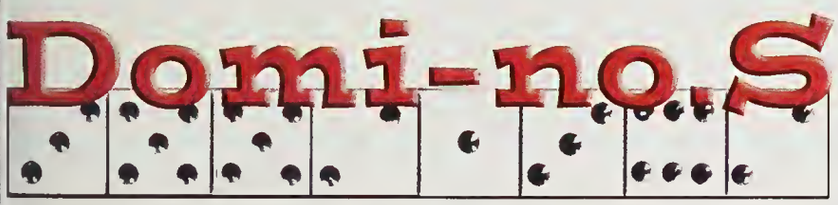
Oh, Kay!

Use the capital letters in the code clue below to fill in the blanks above.

" A B D E H O R S T U V W " means
u n s c r a m b l e i t

Domi-no.S



Letters have been substituted for digits in this multiplication problem. Repeated letters stand for repeated digits. Can you replace the digits that change SMALL to LARGE? If at first you don't succeed, you know what to do.

For answers, please see page 42

Math Wirdz

Letters have been substituted for digits in this division problem. Given T=2, can you replace the missing digits that get the DUCK out of the SOUP?

```
          D   U   C   K
        ---------------
T     | S   O   U   P
2     | _   _   _   _
      | K
      | -
      | O   O
      | _   _
      | O   H
      | -   -
        ---------------
            O   U
            _   _
            O   D
            -   -
          ---------
                O   P
                _   _
                O   P
                -   -
              -------
```

WORD

ward-wary-pray

PLAY

1 SHIP
2 _ _ _ _
3 _ _ _ _
4 SHORE

To get from SHIP to SHORE you must change a letter in each step as indicated by the blanks, adding a letter in the final step. Letters can be rearranged in any step. Your answer may be different from mine.

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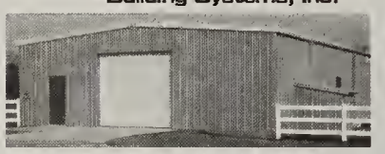

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SHIP SHOP SHOE SHORE
WORD PLAY
9 1 5 6 / 2 = 4 5 7 8
S O U P / T = D U C K
Math Wirdz
SMALL X S = LARGE
27455 X 2 = 54910
Domi-no.S
OUR HEADS ABOVE WATER
Oh, Kay!
JOYNER'S CORNER ANSWERS:

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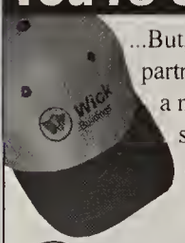

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$150,000	$887.31	30 YR. Fixed	5.87*	5.99%
$200,000	$1,104.41	5 YR ARM	5.25***	5.39%
$200,000	$666.50	Power Arm	1.25***	6.52%

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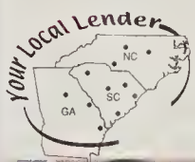

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June Events

Madison Clouds of Heaven will perform "shout band music," which is inspired by jazz, blues and gospel, on Sunday, June 11, at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. To learn more, call (919) 715-0200 or visit www.ncmuseaumofhistory.org

MOUNTAINS

Music on Main Street
Fridays, Hendersonville
(828) 693-9708
www.historichendersonville.org

Jeff Little, pianist
June 3, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787

Jerry Wallace Memorial Ride
June 3, Love Valley
(704) 592-5007
www.lovevalley.com

Mountain Echoes
June 3, Clyde
(828) 627-4544
www.mountainechoes
homecoming.org

Blue Ridge Rose Exhibition
June 3–4, Asheville
(828) 665-2492
www.ncarboretum.org

Blue Ridge Chamber Players
June 9, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787

Business Expo
June 9–10, Hayesville
(828) 389-3704
www.claychambernc.com

Tractor Show
June 9–10, Maggie Valley
(828) 627-6844

Ghost & Candlelight Tour
June 10, Wilkesboro
(336) 667-3171
www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com

Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show
June 10, Love Valley
(336) 764-2220
www.lovevalley.com

Art in the Park
June 10, Blowing Rock
(800) 295-7851

Toe River Studio Tour
June 10–11, Spruce Pine
(828) 765-0520
www.toeriverarts.org

Hickory Art Crawl
June 15, Hickory
(828) 322-1121
www.downtownhickory.com

Bazaar & Craft Show
June 16, Maggie Valley
(828) 926-8036

Pickin' & Mowin' Day
June 17, Happy Valley
(828) 726-0616

Donkey's Poker Ride & Father's Day Celebration
June 17, Love Valley
(336) 764-2220, www.lovevalley.com

Cruisin' & Jammin'
June 23, Blowing Rock
(800) 295-7851

Heritage Day
June 24, Lenoir
(828) 295-5099
www.traditionspottery.com

Garden of Quilts
June 29–July1, Hendersonville
www.westernncquilters.org

Singing in Hominy Valley
June 29–July 4, Candler
(828) 667-8502

PIEDMONT

"Fridays on the Front Porch"
Fridays, Chapel Hill
(919) 918-2792

Annual Butterfly Bash
June 3, Durham
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

San-Lee AACA Meet
June 3, Sanford
(919) 258-9487
http://local.aaca.org/northcarolina

Family Day: N.C. Heartland
June 3, Raleigh
(919) 715-0200
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Antique Gun & Military Show
June 3–4, Raleigh
(704) 282-1339
www.thecarolinatrader.com

Festival of Dance
June 4, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

Fearrington Village Garden Tours
June 7, Pittsboro
(919) 542-1239
www.fearrington.com

Cane Creek Antiques
June 9–10, Burlington
(336) 376-8324
www.canecreekcampground.com

Car Show
June 10, Cary
(919) 329-7089
www.tarheeltigers.org

Shout Band Music
June 11, Raleigh
(919) 715-0200
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Championship Rodeo
June 16–17, Lowgap
(336) 352-4335

COAST

Ocrafolk Festival
June 2–4, Ocracoke
(252) 928-3411
www.ocrafolkfestival.org

CAROLINA COUNTRY adventures

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Wayne County
(Tri-County EMC territory)

The rolling hills of the piedmont give way to the flatlands of the coastal plain in Wayne County. Here, the two regions gracefully meet and produce fertile farmland, beautiful scenery and lots of history. Highway 70 splits the county, with Goldsboro and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base to the north, and smaller communities and farms to the south. No visit is complete without a stop at the intersection of Cucumber and Vine in Mt. Olive, near the Duplin County line, home to Mt. Olive Pickle Company and the annual Pickle Festival in April.

Three top spots:

Waynesborough Historic Village Waynesborough served as the original county seat from 1779 until 1848, when the county government moved two miles east to Goldsborough Junction (now Goldsboro). Some say the vote to move came about with the help of a little moonshine on a hot summer day. Less than two decades later, U.S. Gen. William T. Sherman burned what was left of this once thriving river town. In the 1980s, local citizens re-created the 19th-century village to showcase the county's history. The village includes houses, a medical office, a one-room school, a law office, general store and a Quaker Meeting House.

Charles B. Aycock Birthplace Known as the "Education Governor," Charles B. Aycock led a humble life on the family farm located just south of Fremont on Highway 117. Aycock served as the state's governor from 1901 to 1905. During his tenure, he committed the state to improving its public education system. The family homestead is now a State Historic Site offering a view of farm life in the mid-1800s. The site includes a house, kitchen and outbuildings such as a corn barn and stables. A one-room schoolhouse shows visitors, especially students, how far education has come in North Carolina.

Seven Springs If you blink while driving down Highway 55 between Highways 111 and 903, you may miss the signs leading you to Seven Springs, once widely known as a mineral springs resort area. Hikers from the nearby Cliffs of the Neuse State Park can replenish their bodies with home cooking and sweet tea at the Seven Springs Restaurant, located on the town's main drag, where everyone is greeted by owner Ola Mae Adams. Walk off your meal by strolling down toward the Neuse River to learn about the Battle of Whitehall (former name of Seven Springs), when Union troops under the command of Gen. J.G. Foster raided this river town, burned the Whitehall Bridge and damaged the CSS Neuse, a Confederate ironclad under construction.

Learn of other nearby adventures and events:

Greater Goldsboro Travel & Tourism
(866) 440-2245 or (919) 734-2245
www.greatergoldsboro.com

The A.J. Meerwald, a gaff-rigged schooner, will participate in Americas' Sail 2006 in Beaufort, June 30–July 5. Festivities include a parade of sail, ship tours, live music and entertainment, the Americas' Sail Race, fireworks and more. Call (252) 728-7471 or visit www.pepsiamericassail.com

nnual Bass Tournament
une 3, Edenton
252) 482-5343

avenport Homestead Day
une 3, Creswell
252) 797-4336

lare Days
une 3, Manteo
252) 473-1912

lovice Equestrian Show
une 3–4, Williamston
919) 894-2973
ww.ncqha.com

I.C. Symphony
une 4, Manteo
252) 475-1500
ww.roanokeisland.com

Bloody Mary &
he Virgin Queen"
une 7, 14, 21, Manteo
252) 475-1500
ww.roanokeisland.com

Martin Festival Horse Show
une 10–11, Williamston
252) 799-0334
ww.eastcoasthorses.com

.C. Symphony Concert
une 11, Jacksonville
910) 455-9840

arolina Classic Horse Show
une 15–17, Williamston
704) 489-2000
ww.raycloninger.com

Music in the Streets
June 16, Washington
(252) 948-9415
www.beaufortcountyartscouncil.org

Lynn Trefzger, ventriloquist
June 16–17, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

Music & Water Festival
June 17, Edenton
(800) 775-0111

U.S. Air Force Band
June 18, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"In the Monitor's Turret"
June 20, Hatteras
(252) 986-2995
www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com

"Secret Codes & Sunken Subs"
June 22, Hatteras
(252) 986-2995
www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com

Barrel Blast
June 23–25, Williamston
(919) 853-3660

N.C. Blueberry Festival
June 24, Burgaw
(888) 576-4756, www.visitpender.com

Bathtub Pirates For Kids
June 27–30, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

NOW SHOWING

A LISTING OF EXHIBITS

MOUNTAINS

"Unto These Hills"
June 8–August 19, Cherokee
Cherokee Historical
Association, (828) 497-2111
www.cherokee-nc.com

"From the View"
Through June 23, Brevard
Arts Center Gallery
(828) 884-2787, www.tcarts.org

"NASCAR Inspired"
Through Sept. 17, Hickory
Hickory Museum of Art
(828) 327-8576
www.hickorymuseumofart.org

PIEDMONT

"Fame"
June 9–July 2, Fayetteville
Cape Fear Regional Theatre
(910) 323-4233, www.cfrt.org

Viktor Schreckengost
Through June 26, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft &
Design(704) 337-2009
www.mintmuseum.org

"Kites to Kitty Hawk"
Through July 15, Durham
Museum of Life and Science
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

"The Life & Work of
Walter & Dorothy Auman"
Through August 26, Seagrove
N.C. Pottery Center
(336) 873-8430
www.ncpotterycenter.com

"Treasures from the Past"
Through September 16,
Oxford, Granville County
Museum, (919) 693-9706

COAST

Paintings by Ben Miller
& Steve Andrus
Through June 28, Manteo
Roanoke Island Festival Park
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"Progressions"
Through June 17, Wilmington
Fountainside Art Gallery
(910) 256-9956
www.fountainsidegallery.com

Roanoke Island
Summer Festival
June 27–August 5, Manteo
Roanoke Island Festival Park
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

Pepsi America's Sail
June 30–July 5, Beaufort
Beaufort Waterfront
(252) 728-7471
www.pepsiamericassail.com

Listing Information

Deadlines:
For August: June 24
For September: July 24

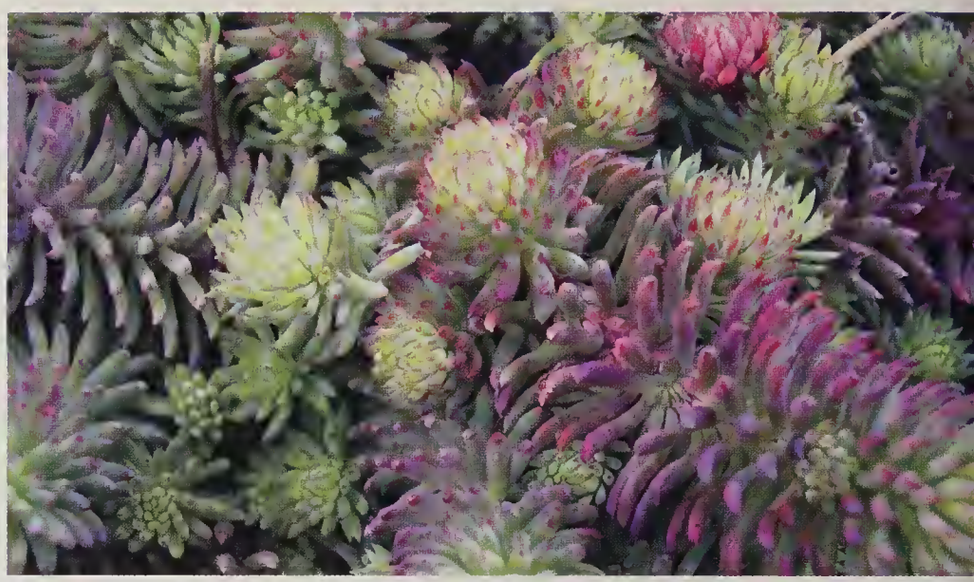
Submit Listings Online:
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click "See NC" to add your event to the magazine and/or our Web site. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

By Carla Burges

Succulent sedums

With their varied beauty, versatility, ease of propagation and carefree maintenance, sedums have a place in every garden. The nickname "stonecrop" is apt, as many wild species grow in rocky environments, though sedums occur in a wide range of habitats throughout the Northern hemisphere. Not surprisingly, many sedums thrive in rock gardens and handle drought with poise. Sedums, which all are succulents, comprise about 420 species. The most familiar sedum variety is probably 'Autumn Joy', which has a neat, mounding form (to 3 feet), light blue-green leaves and large pink flowerheads in autumn that fade to a lovely rust color. Lesser known but becoming more available in the retail trade are creeping and trailing sedums. Many have intricate leaves, enticing color variations and often bizarre-looking forms—like something you'd expect to see attached to a coral reef. An invaluable source of information on the many species and varieties of sedums is *Sedum: Cultivated Stonecrops* by Ray Stephenson. An outstanding Web site with color reference photos is at www.sedumphotos.net



Sedum forsterianum *is a hardy species that grows about 10 inches tall and spreads rapidly.*

Blossom-end rot and annoying borers

Blossom-end rot, a common disorder in tomatoes, is usually visible as quarter-sized black spots on the underside of the fruit. The result of calcium deficiency, it damages fruit by causing premature ripening. If soil pH is below 5.5, add lime before planting. An adequate supply of calcium in the soil alone, however, may not prevent ruin of the fruit. An even supply of soil moisture is necessary to make calcium available to plant roots. A calcium chloride spray applied to leaves of affected plants is a popular prescription, but this method likely has limited effectiveness because calcium reaches the fruit through the roots, not foliage. Prevention is the best route. Mulch with organic material and irrigate during dry spells to prevent extreme fluctuation in soil moisture. Remove any affected tomatoes; the plant may rebound and eventually produce undamaged fruit.

Squash vine borers are formidable pests—even a couple can destroy an entire plant. Adult moths lay eggs on the vines, usually at the base of the plant, and the hatched larvae burrow into the stem to feed. Sudden wilting of leaves is a telltale sign of infestation. The timing of chemical control is tricky. Pesticides must reach the larvae after they hatch but before they burrow into the vine. Application to the vines at weekly intervals may control the life cycle. In a small garden, organic control may be practical by monitoring plants and hand-picking eggs. In infected plants, look for an entrance hole near the base of the vine marked by a small mound that resembles wet sawdust. Slit the stem with a knife and find and remove any whitish grubs, then mound soil over the wound to promote new root growth. Some gardeners routinely shovel a spadeful of dirt at several leaf nodes along the vine to encourage supplemental root development, which may help the plant survive if the main stem is attacked.

Fire ants

There is virtually no limit to the places fire ants set up housekeeping, including your lawn and garden. The mounds created by imported red fire ants range from a few inches to 18 inches high. Unlike other ant mounds, they are distinguished by the lack of an opening in the center—fire ants leave and enter through underground tunnels. In heavily infested areas (five or more mounds per ¼ acre), experts often recommend a carefully timed, two-step method for control. The first step is to broadcast fire ant bait across affected areas. The second step is treatment of individual mounds. Methods labeled as "least toxic" or "organic" (including treating mounds with boric acid) have also been successful. Never douse mounds with gasoline—it pollutes soil and may contaminate groundwater. Fire ants cannot be entirely eradicated but rather managed in your immediate surroundings. Learn how colonies survive and spread. Ask your Cooperative Extension agent for the most up-to-date information about controlling fire ants in your area, then use a comprehensive strategy.

Hort Shorts

- Lightly shear the tips of butterfly bush branches to remove spent flowers and encourage fresh blooms throughout the summer.
- Take cuttings of coleus and begonia to increase your stock. They root quickly in water or soil.

Carla Burgess can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com

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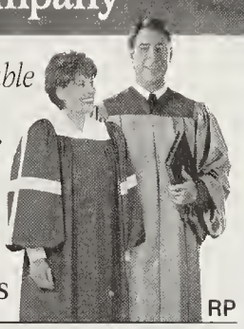

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By James Dulley

Installing foil under roof can lower cooling bills

Every degree the air conditioner thermostat is lowered can increase your electricity bill by up to 3 percent. One way to lower your cooling bill is radiant heat transfer.

Radiant heat transfer from the hot roof to the ceiling below can contribute to how warm a room feels. A dark roof can reach 150 degrees in the afternoon sun. Radiant heat transfer is unique in that it increases at a very fast rate as the temperature increases. For example, a roof at 150 degrees can radiate more than 10 times as much heat to the ceiling below as a roof at 120 degrees.

Standard fiberglass insulation is effective for blocking conductive heat transfer, such as the heat from inside your house to the cold attic during the winter. It is not very effective for blocking the radiant heat from a hot roof. Radiant heat from the roof penetrates through the insulation to the ceiling below. Even the insulation itself gets warm and can actually hold the heat in the ceiling once it gets warm.

Nylon mesh-reinforced attic foil is stapled underneath the roof rafter. It is also wrapped around the heating/cooling duct insulation.

The best way to block most of the heat is by installing reflective foil underneath the roof and installing adequate attic ventilation. The foil blocks the direct path for the radiant heat to the ceiling below. Astronauts' space suits use multiple layers of foil to block heat flow. The attic ventilation will cool the roof and carry the excess heat away by natural air flow (hot air is less dense and rises).

I installed attic foil and more attic ventilation in my own home. The temperature in the second-floor bedrooms was immediately 10 degrees cooler in the afternoon and early evening. The attic air exhausting through the new roof vents was so hot that you could not hold your hand in it for very long without discomfort.

Attic foil is commonly referred to as reflective foil because it looks reflective, like aluminum foil. It actually works not by reflecting the heat back up to the roof, but by its low-emissivity (similar to low-e windows) properties on its bottom surface. The foil gets hot, but its shiny low-e surface does not easily radiate the heat down. This is why room radiators for heating are a dull dark color instead of shiny so they radiate heat more effectively.

You can find attic foil in long rolls about 4 feet wide at many building supply outlets. It is similar to regular kitchen aluminum foil, except it is reinforced with kraft paper or a nylon mesh or grid so the staples don't pull through. The least expensive type is kraft paper with foil on only one side. Although this may sound strange, because the low-e properties are most important, the shiny side should face down.

Staple the foil up under the roof rafters. The neatness of the job is not critical. It is only important that every part of the roof surface is blocked from the floor below. Leave a small gap above the insulation near the floor and at the ridge so the attic and roof are well ventilated. This is particularly effective with a continuous roof ridge vent.

Another option is to have the underside of the roof sprayed with a special reflective, low-e paint. It has the appearance of aluminum paint. This has a similar effect to the foil, reducing the radiant heat from the underside of the roof. If you are replacing the roof sheathing or building a new home, sheathing is available with a foil backing already applied so additional foil is not needed.

Installing a ridge vent in the attic is most effective. The hot air naturally rises to the peak of the roof where it is exhausted. A ridge vent is not difficult to install. It is available in long rolls or as rigid sections that are nailed over a slot along the roof ridge beam. It is also important to install adequate inlet vent areas along the soffit or under-side of the roof overhang.

James Dulley is an engineer and syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The following companies offer attic foil:

Fi-Foil
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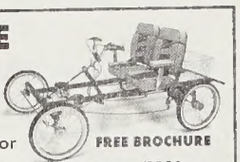

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Stuffed Tomatoes

- 4 large tomatoes
- Dash salt
- 1 pound sliced fresh mushrooms
- ¼ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 2 tablespoons soft bread crumbs
- ¾ cup minced fresh parsley
- ⅔ cup shredded cheddar cheese, divided

Cut tomatoes in half; scoop out and discard pulp, leaving a thin shell. Sprinkle lightly with salt; invert on paper towels to drain for 15 minutes.

In a large skillet, sauté mushrooms in butter until most of liquid has evaporated, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with flour; stir in cream. Bring to boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Remove from the heat. Stir in the bread crumbs, parsley and ⅓ cup of cheese. Spoon into tomato cups; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Place in a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Yield: 8 servings

Candy Bar Pie

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 4 Butterfinger candy bars (2.1 ounces each)
- 1 prepared graham cracker crust (9 inches)

In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Crush the candy bars; fold 1 cup into cream cheese mixture. Spoon into crust. Sprinkle with remaining candy bar crumbs. Refrigerate for 2–4 hours before slicing.

Yield: 6–8 servings

Bacon Wrapped Chicken

- 6 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 carton (8 ounces) whipped cream cheese with onion and chives
- 1 tablespoon butter, cubed
- Salt to taste
- 6 bacon strips

Flatten chicken to ½ inch thickness. Spread 3 tablespoons cream cheese over each. Dot with butter and sprinkle with salt; roll-up. Wrap each with a bacon strip. Place, seam side down, in a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan.

Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 35–40 minutes or until juices run clear. Broil 6 inches from the heat for 5 minutes or until bacon is crisp.

Yield: 6 servings

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com

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Winning reader recipe

Volcano Cake

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 box German chocolate cake mix
- 1¼ cups water
- ⅓ cup oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 stick margarine
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 box confectioner's sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 24-ounce can Hershey's chocolate syrup
- 12 ounces Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 plain chocolate candy bar, grated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease a 13-by-9-by-2-inch cake pan. Sprinkle the pecans and coconut in bottom of the pan. Set aside.

Blend dry cake mix, water, oil and eggs in a large bowl at low speed until moistened, about 30 seconds. Beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Pour over pecans and coconut in pan.

Melt margarine and cream cheese in microwaveable bowl. Stir until smooth. Add the confectioner's sugar and vanilla; mix well. Pour over the cake mix.

Bake 30–35 minutes or until tests done. Immediately after removing from oven, pour all of the Hershey's syrup over hot cake. Cool completely. Top with Cool Whip and sprinkle on the grated candy bar. Refrigerate until serving. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 12–16 servings

Frances Holder of Dobson, a member of Surry-Yadkin EMC, will receive $25 for submitting this recipe.

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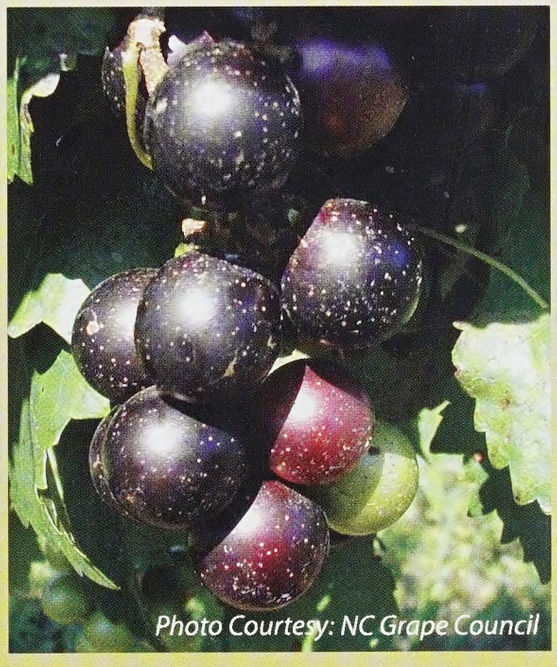
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